VICTIM OF POLICE BRUTALITY Grace Capistrano, 22, in her hospital bed in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. She works as a police informant.

Pregnant woman stabbed 24 times, shot once, lives

By Marisar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—She survived seven hours in a pitch-black pit, enduring 24 stab wounds in the chest and back and a bullet wound in the right leg.

Now confined at the Laguna provincial hospital, panting under an oxygen mask, police informant Grace Capistrano could only nod when asked if she and her baby were okay. She is four months pregnant.

She could not speak, but was able to roll over to show her wounds.

PREGNANT/A15

NEWS / A2

Students protesting SUCs budget cut wrong, says Palace

NEWS / A3

No more Senate hearing for Trillanes amnesty

BUSINESS/ B1

Imports surged by 24.6% to $4.57B in September

NEWS/ A2

Bill seeks to limit credit card interest to 1% per month

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, November 27, 2010 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 152 P18

'Pacquiao effect' on Pinoys subject of study

By Elmer Kristian Cruzigoy
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Even psychologists are intrigued by the so-called Pacquiao phenomenon.

PACQUIAO/A15

SC, Webbs dare Vizconde to name names

By Marlen Ramos

NAME NAMES.

The Supreme Court and the family of convicted rapist and murderer Hubert Webb yesterday lashed out at Lauro Vizconde, who had claimed that a member of the tribunal was lobbying for the acquittal of the men convicted of killing his wife and two daughters in 1991.

"We're evaluating what he said because most of them were not true. It's offending, you know," Webb's father, Freddie Webb, said in an interview with dzIQ Radyo Inquirer.

The former senator said Vizconde should identify the justice who was purportedly behind an attempt to clear his son and the other convicts, as well as the other justice who supposedly told the widower of such moves.

"He should name whoever these justices are. He's playing unfair because he should not be giving any information," Freddie Webb said.

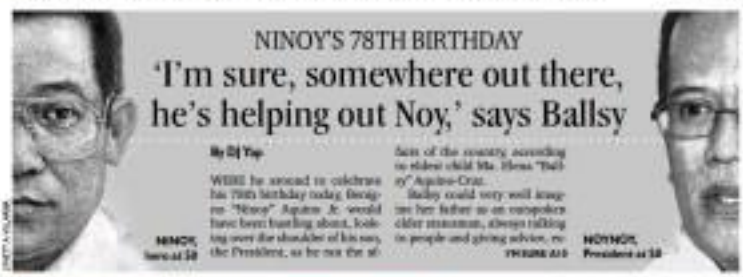
Vizconde did not name names during his interview with the Inquirer on Thursday, which was reported yesterday. But last night over GMA 7, he said Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio was "leading ways to convince his colleagues" to clear Webb et al.

"Umagamitan ng impluwensya sabi

SC, WEBBS/ A11

Vizconde cop to be freed

FIRST YELLOW SALE Ballsy Aquino-Cruz shops at the 1st Yellow Sale of the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation at Tiendesitas, Pasig City, on Friday in commemoration of the 78th birthday of her father, former Sen. Ninoy Aquino. The sale runs till Nov. 28.



NINOY'S 78TH BIRTHDAY

'I'm sure, somewhere out there, he's helping out Noy,' says Ballsy

By DJ Yap

WERE he around to celebrate his 78th birthday today, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. would have been hustling about, looking over the shoulder of his son, the President, as he ran the affairs of the country, according to eldest child Ma. Elena "Ballsy" Aquino-Cruz.

Ballsy could very well imagine her father as an outspoken elder statesman, always talking to people and giving advice, re-

FIGURE A10

NINOY, here at 50

NOYNOY, President at 50

Convict jailed 9 years for burning evidence

By Mike Morales and Marlon Ramos

THE EX-POLICEMAN convicted of tampering with evidence concerning the infamous "Vizconde massacre" is now a free man after serving almost a decade behind bars as part of his sentence.

Gerardo Biong spent at least nine years in the New Bilibid Prisons. He and his wife Jocelyn were still awaiting his formal release from the medium-security compound of the national penitentiary at press time last night.

Her eyes glistening, Jocelyn Biong said they were waiting for the transmittal of her husband's release order.

Biong's lawyer, Jose Flaminiano, confirmed Biong's release to the Inquirer in a phone interview, saying Justice Secretary Leila de Lima signed the release order yesterday morning.

Flaminiano quickly said Biong's release had nothing to do with the supposed lobbying for the high court's acquittal of the convicts.

"This is a result of the operation of the law," Flaminiano said.

Flaminiano said Biong was to proceed to his house to spend the night and possibly map out a plan to ease back into society.

"Yes. Based on records, [Biong] had served [his] sentence already," De Lima told the Inquirer in a text message.

Biong's release came a day after Lauro Vizconde, whose wife and two daughters were found stabbed to death in the family home in 1991, claimed

VIZCONDE/ A11

FROM COP TO CONVICT Gerardo Biong at the NBI headquarters after his arrest in 1995. He will be freed on Tuesday, says his lawyer.

INQUIRER PHOTO

TELLING THE FILIPINO STORY TO THE WORLD 25

Editors' Note: For 25 days, we will be telling stories about the Inquirer to mark the paper's 25th anniversary on Dec. 8, 2010. Some are little inside stories but interesting on how we cover unfolding events; some are nearly the-day stories that become tell-of-the-town types; others are turning point stories that have changed the landscape of history; still others, big or small, raise the heart and never let go.

But whatever, the Inquirer will tell you the story.

When UP was king Sports made it to Page 1

By Chito de la Vega
Editor in chief
Inquirer Libre

TO LAND on the front page of the Philippine Daily Inquirer during those heady days of 1986, a story had to be either about politics, controversy theories or conspiracies.

Not a sports story, much more a piece about collegiate basketball, it would be close to impossible.

One sports event though so moved then PDI editor in chief Louie Beltran that it not only gained front page prominence but was also the topic of the day's editorial, as well as Jess Abrera's editorial cartoon.

That was the story of the University of the Philippines' winning the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) men's basketball

WHEN UP/ A12

They're strong, they're invincible, they're women

By Marc Anthony Reyes
Sports

THEY SAY the sports page is a newspaper in the toys section in a department store. Nobody takes us seriously unless we write about Manny Pacquiao, the PBA or maybe the La Salle-Ateneo

THEY'RE/ A19

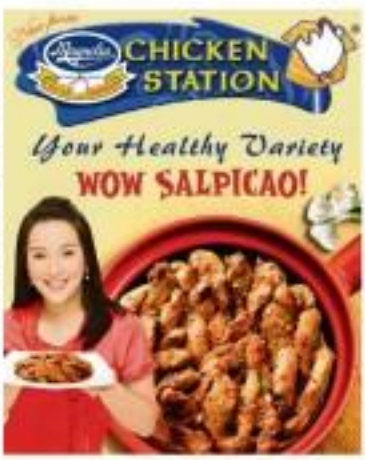
North Korea warns of 'brink of war'

SEOUL, South Korea—North Korea said yesterday that impending military exercises by the South and the United States were pushing the region to the brink of war, days after it launched its heaviest bombardment since the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korean shells rained down on the small South Korean island of Yeonpyeong on Tuesday, killing four people and destroying dozens of houses. The North said it was responding to live fire from the South into its waters.

"The situation on the Korean peninsula is inching closer to the brink of war due to the reckless

NORTH/ A6



WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO

6/42	29	2	2	8	28
6/49	6	0	0	7	7	6
6/55	9	5	9	1	0	6

MEGA LOTTO 6/45: 1 7 11 12 21 42

P18,538,048.80

LOTTO 3D/2D | 6D LOTTO, each to 6/42: P1.5K shares

Students barking up wrong tree

State schools have enough funds–Palace

By Norman Bordadora

STUDENTS from various state universities and colleges march along Diliman Ave. in Malacañang to denounce the proposed budget cuts for state schools. ROMAN REYES

PROTESTING STUDENTS leave a placard on the gate of the Department of Budget office in Malacañang. ROMAN REYES

STUDENTS protesting Malacañang's alleged slashing of the budget for state universities and colleges (SUCs) had best talk to their school administrations as these SUCs have enough funds in their budgets and other revenue sources, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said yesterday.

"Let the universities explain," said Lacierda, adding that there was no need to involve Department of Budget and Management Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad Jr. in the issue.

In fact, Lacierda said the allocations for SUCs in the proposed budget for 2013 were actually bigger at P93 billion, compared to the P91 billion allocated in 2012.

Lacierda said the SUCs also had revenues that they could disburse and derive revenues from.

"Now your income and spend the goodwill among your students and the various [things] you want to develop in the university," he said.

He pointed out that University of the Philippines has P5.1 billion in income that is not placed back in the national treasury which the university can use as it sees fit.

"We don't need the President to be involved anymore," Lacierda said.

(For related story, page 9)

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto yesterday said the group of students and activists decrying the alleged slashing of the SUC budget are "demonstrating against a ghost."

The government has in fact increased the SUC allocation in the proposed P1.6-trillion budget for 2013, Senate leaders claimed during budget plenary deliberations yesterday.

The original SUC allocation submitted by the Palace amounted to P21.77 billion, a P1.14-billion increase from the 2013 allocation, according to Sen. Franklin Drilon, the finance committee chair.

The sum further increased to P21.723 billion in the budget bill that the House of Representatives approved, Drilon said.

The protesters are pointing to other agencies to be a diminution of the SUC allocation, from the P21.462 billion in the 2013 budget to P21.723 billion in 2014.

Drilon explained that the P22.403 billion allocation in 2013 included P7.81 billion in "congressional insertions" that was subtracted to a "conditional sum" by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

This means that the P7.81 billion was to be released "subject to the identification by Congress of new revenue measures."

There was no way the national could have been authorized to fund items not additional revenues, said Drilon.

He cited the example of the University of the Philippines system. In the final 2013 budget, the UP system was appropriated a total of P9.917 billion, but was subjected to a "conditional sum" by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

This means that the P5.81 billion was to be released "subject to the identification by Congress of new revenue measures."

There was no way the national could have been authorized to fund items not additional revenues, said Drilon.

He cited the example of the University of the Philippines system. In the final 2013 budget, the UP system was appropriated a total of P9.917 billion, but P1.982 billion of it again came in the form of congressional insertion, according to Drilon.

But the supposed increase was never released because there was no funding for it, he said.

The UP system actually enjoyed a budget increase in 2011, according to Drilon. Malacañang allocated P5.326 billion for the UP system in 2011, representing a P391-million increase from 2010, he said. With Christian G. Esguerra

Gov't claims $100,000 seized by US from Garcia sons

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has stated the government's claim to the $100,000 that was confiscated by United States authorities from the sons of former Armed Forces comptroller Carlos Garcia.

It has sent a request to the US government asking it to return the money that was taken by US customs authorities from Juan Paulo and Ian Carl Garcia on their arrival from Manila in 2003. The request was routed through the Philippine justice department.

In sending the return of the money, Ombudsman Hiloreto Gutierrez said the amount, which was seized by the District Court of Northern California, is part of the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Garcias.

The $100,000 was discovered in the luggage of Juan Paulo and Ian Carl who did not declare the money to customs official at the San Francisco airport in 2003.

The two were subsequently charged with bulk cash smuggling and conspiracy.

Juan Paulo faced additional charges of failing to file a monetary instruments report and for making a false statement to a government agency.

The brothers have since pleaded guilty to bulk cash smuggling before the US District Court in San Francisco, and are scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 29.

Juan Paulo and Ian Carl have also agreed to give up the $100,000 to the US government in exchange for the other charges being dismissed.

The brothers were also placed under custody for approximately 130 days, and spent a year and a half under electronic surveillance. They have been released from electronic monitoring pending their appearance at the sentencing.

Earlier, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said the government sees the claim to get the $100,000 if it is upheld it corruption.

Carlos Garcia, his wife Cecilia and their sons Juan Paulo, Ian Carl and Timothy Noah are facing 46 counts of charges in the Philippines for allegedly amassing more than P303 million in unexplained wealth.

Bill seeks to put limits to credit card interests

By Michael Lim Ubac

CALLING INTEREST rates charged by credit card companies in the Philippines "exorbitant and unconscionable," a congressman has filed a bill placing a cap on such "finance charges."

Under the "Credit Card Users Protection Act of 2013," authored by Rep. Arthur Yap of Bohol, most credit card companies that currently charge up to 3.8 percent monthly interest rates (or up to 45 percent per annum) would be forced to limit interest rates to 1 percent per month (12 percent per annum) or face criminal charges.

The measure, listed as House Bill No. 1109, would likewise impose a limit on penalty charges of one percent per month, or 12 percent per annum.

There are now four million Filipinos holding around six and half million credit cards, or about five percent of the population.

Finance charge

Most credit card companies impose a uniform monthly interest rate (3.8 percent) dubbed the "finance charge," plus late charges (about P1,500) slapped on cardholders for failing to pay at least the minimum amount due before specified due dates.

As you have fun, usually P500, is also charged in credit card holders whenever the outstanding balance exceeds the prescribed credit limit within the billing period or cycle.

All of these fees and surcharges add up and become part of the "total amount due" per billing cycle.

"Time is the aggressive marketing of credit card companies, the member (of card holders) is expected to rise in the very near future because consumers are being constantly wooed by present and offers marketing gimmicks, to avail and use their credit cards for their everyday purchases," said Yap.

Yap's bill states that aside from reasonable interest and late charges, "no other finance charges shall be allowed except reasonable attorney's fees and cost of collection."

Any credit card provider found guilty of violating any of the offenses provided under the Act will be imprisoned for a period of six years and shall be slapped with a fine of P500,000 and suspension or revocation of their business permit.

No discipline

At the same time, Yap said it was unfortunate that a big percentage of credit card holders do not possess discipline in the use of their cards.

He said instead of the cards being mere substitutes for the use of cash, they are being used as an alternative of cash or money which they do not have.

"It is saddening that these people, who are merely their income earners with no additional money or provisioning for debt servicing, end up in debt. With the credit card companies' imposition of very prohibitive, exorbitant and unconscionable interest rates, penalty and other finance charges, these credit card users dig themselves a grave of debt," Yap said.

Lotto fever bits Palace

By Norman Bordadora

GRAND LOTTO fever is spreading far and wide—from Malacañang Palace to Filipino communities overseas.

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters covering the Palace that he had just lost P120 on unsuccessful bets on Tuesday in hopefully win the P600-million pot, the biggest ever in Philippine lotto history.

Lacierda said it was excitement that was dawning in Manila, dispelling notions that many Filipinos queue at lotto outlets just due to desperation.

"I already placed my bets. And I'm not desperate," he told reporters.

But hope reigned only quasi despite what accompanied another lotto. Cash, who got out a bet for her number who resides in a neighbor to the United States.

"Mamahaba lang ba'yon maging sky tumalo to come home and win... and entering the lottery is the only way that might enable her to do that," said the 22-year old who endured the long hours to place the bet.

"I play Lotto, because I also have many items on list so long and has been searching individual. But she each step because all are strange, even if they already have families of their own, still depend so much on her. She doesn't own, have her own savings," explained Cash, who said she was praying very hard that her number would win the Grand Lotto.

No Senate hearing for Trillanes amnesty

By Christian V. Esguerra

TRILLANES

Instead of the committee meeting, Proclamation No. 75 would instead be passed over by a caucus, according to Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, chairman of the committee on peace, unification, and reconciliation.

The need for a committee hearing was deemed no longer necessary in Proclamation No. 75, which revised the earlier Proclamation No. 50, already included inputs from the House and the Senate.

Not writ in stone

However, "that is not yet written in stone," Guingona said.

If the senators agree not to hold a committee hearing on PP 75 anymore, senators or guests and questions that they want to raise on the new proclamation can be brought up in the plenary he said.

Guingona earlier said he and like-minded Senate colleagues were hoping that Trillanes would be freed before Christmas.

Trillanes is on trial on coup charges for leading a group of junior officers in a failed attempt to bring down President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in July 2003, known as the Oakwood mutiny.

Mr. Aquino's original amnesty proclamation granted amnesty to Trillanes and other officers, enlisted men and civilians who participated in several attempts to bring down the Arroyo government by force of arms.

But while Guingona's Senate committee promptly announced static PP 50, the House committee that scrutinized it said it was done before it declared that it would take effect immediately upon signing.

No infirmity

Malacañang has offered a revised PP 75 that clarified that the amnesty proclamation would take effect "upon concurrence (of) a majority of all members of Congress."

Guingona again did not say how "effective" is PP 75. "It remains what we stated that it's all right," he said.

Guingona said Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, presiding officer of the committee on justice, human rights, good government and public information, has yet to submit his committee report on PP 50 it was submitted to the Palace for executive.

"Wherever it's there (Malacañang's) call. They chose not to put it in (the new proclamation)," he said.

Arroyo wanted the House to defer the plenary vote on the amnesty proclamation until after the Mindoro regional trial court rules on the coup charges against Trillanes and company.

No more China trip for PH team on hostage crisis

By Norman Bordadora

THE HIGH-LEVEL delegation to China tasked to explain the government's position on the Aug. 23 hostage crisis that killed eight Hong Kong tourists would no longer push through, Malacañang said on Friday.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, a member of the supposed delegation, said there continues to be no schedule from the Chinese side on when they could meet with Chinese officials in connection with the incident. The delegation was to include Vice President Jejomar Binay and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

"I don't know if we would still be sent," Lacierda told reporters.

So far as I know, it appears that we would no longer push through," he added.

Lacierda said China has already known the Philippine government's findings on who should be charged in connection with the tragedy and what charges should be filed.

The Philippine government submitted all its findings—the investigation report of the Incident Investigation and Review Committee (IIRC) and the results of the Ombudsman's review of the IIRC findings—to the Chinese government.

The Malacañang review modified some of the charges prompting some victims to say the final resolution was watered down.

President Aquino has said that he wanted the charges to stand in court and that no person would be unnecessarily prosecuted without enough evidence.

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CORE VALUES: Social Responsibility, Quality, Teamwork, Integrity
BREAKTHROUGH OBJECTIVES: Social Accountability and Responsibility

66th Annual Clinical Congress

Optimizing Surgical Outcomes

December 5-8, 2010 EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City

The Philippine College of Surgeons is the umbrella organization of all surgical specialties in the country. It is committed to continually improve the practice of surgery by serving as an advocate for surgeons who seek excellence in surgical care. On December 5-8, 2010, the PCS is holding its 66th Annual Clinical Congress at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City, with the theme "Optimizing Surgical Outcomes".

The scientific program aims to achieve best practice initiative that promotes the coexistence of quality care, patient safety and access to world class procedures. It focuses on current standards and strategies for the best treatment options available, reinforces holistic care in the management of surgical patients through a multidisciplinary team approach, and ultimately, hopes to deliver the best surgical care in the management of current surgical diseases.

Renowned speakers here and abroad have confirmed their participation in this conference. Topics cover a wide range including Trauma, Fluid Resuscitation, Surgical Infection, Breast Cancer, Esophageal Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, Anorectal Conditions, Laparoscopic Surgery and other subspecialty topics.

Fellowship night is on Sunday, December 5, 2010. A festive atmosphere is expected, it being a time of enjoying camaraderie among the Fellows and resident trainees, renewing professional and personal friendships and acquaintances from all over the country.

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Pastor Cawilihan Tenbrevilla Zulori, MD, OT Singian Memorial Lecturer

Pastor Cawilihan Tenbrevilla Zulori, MD is this year's OT Singian Memorial Lecturer of the opening ceremonies of the 66th PCS Annual Clinical Congress. Dr. Zulori took her BS Pre-Medicine at the Silliman University in Dumaguete where she graduated cum laude in 1985. She went on to finish her medical degree at the College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines and was hailed as the most outstanding intern at the UP-PGH. She had her post-graduate training as a Herbalogy Fellow at the University of Connecticut Medical Center in Farmington, Connecticut and at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. She came back to the Philippines and set up her medical practice in Cebu City, her adopted home after marrying Dr. Jesualdo Zulori, plastic surgeon.

Dr. Cawilihan Zulori served as assistant professor of medicine at the Cebu Doctors College of Medicine and at the Cebu Institute of Medicine. She is one of the outstanding women of Dumaguete who has given back to her community. She practiced herbalology as her chosen specialty but opted to serve her very successful practice to become part of the Board of Life Ministries and is part of the ministerial staff. Dr. Zulori also serves as Chaplain of Mandala International Learning Experience located at Mother Ignacia in Quezon City. Dr. Zulori has a son, Kristoffer, currently a second year surgical resident at the Department of Surgery at the UP-PGH.

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1. Aragon, Miguel C. III
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3. Pilac, Maria Rosario Lyn
4. Solomon, Ramon Gerardo Marcos

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3. Ang, Jocelito C.
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30. Pura, Dolores C.
31. San Gabriel, Geraldine E.
32. Sison, Silvestre M. II
33. Tolosa, Manuel S. Jr.

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1. Cecilio, Francis Raymund M.

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1. Bolaya, Jay D.
2. Lee, Carlos I. Jr.

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1. Aguilo, Josef Roy L.
2. Chi Ara, Dennis M.
3. Rivera, Leonardo C. Jr.
4. Sera, Zenaida R.

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1. Africa, Joseph Bernard L.
2. Cleopatra, Ma. Annemarie Jordan
3. Felizar, Stephanie B.
4. Pineda II, Alfredo C.

UROLOGY
1. Agana, Jovito P. Jr.
2. Bartolome, Juan Gotardo B. II
3. Cecilio, Rodney R.
4. Mendoza, Richard Antonio L.
5. Medrana, Fe Pastrana P.
6. Mendiola, Frederick P.
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NOVEMBER 27, 2010

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99th Birthday and 53rd Anniversary of

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"It is a very rewarding task to contribute to the building of a world of happy and healthy children."

BLESSED MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA AWARD 2008
"I am happy that I leave behind a few tangible expressions of gratitude to the Almighty."

"As mankind owes to children the best it has to give, this Center is a modest legacy to the Children of our Land."

Fe del Mundo

"Dr. Fe Del Mundo: **A Beautiful Life**"

Coffee Table Book by: Marsha Ledesma
Preface by: Dhai Del Mundo Bongolan

What is the essence of **"DR. FE DEL MUNDO'S BEAUTIFUL LIFE"** The answer lies in another question, **"Why only love with your heart when you can pour your whole soul into it?"**

At 99, Dr. Fe del Mundo has received more than 250 citations and awards as **"Grand Dame of Philippine Pediatrics and Medicine, National Scientist, Author, Educator, Public Servant, Humanitarian, A Woman of Many Firsts".** This monument of extraordinary achievements were built on a foundation of faith, hope, and love in the core of her being, her soul, the dwelling place of the Divine Healer.

Thus, when the Medical Observer selected her as "Doctor of Distinction", they said:

"It is not for the functions of the mind and the hand that we honor you. We honor you for what is inside you that we see in all that you have done – because you firmly believe that more than a keen eye, a sharp mind, and a skillful hand, a physician needs a compassionate heart."

C. W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral of the U.S. Navy during World War II, wrote about the Children's Memorial Hospital (now the Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center):

"Dr. Fe del Mundo has poured all her great soul into an undertaking to beset with difficulty its emergence from a vision into reality seemed impossible. She has set her faith against hardship after hardship and overcame them all for the sake of her beloved children."

In 2008, Dr. Fe del Mundo received this citation as the Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Awardee:

"... for her great personal sacrifices to improve the lives of Filipino children and their families.....especially the poor and the disadvantaged...we can truly say that she embodies the true spirit and mission of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta."

The introduction by Florisa Castillo to Marsha Ledesma's book "Living from the Heart" is an endearing tribute of a mother to Doctora Fe:

"Dr. Fe del Mundo stood next to God in my mind whenever she touched my little one in the awesome silence of her examining room. Your article brought back memories of long ago when with a sick child, I would see her pass by our hospital room on her way to church in the early morning and how just that sign of her set my heart at rest."

Why only love with your heart when you can pour your whole soul into it? The answer is in the "Heart of Gold" Award by Marsha Ledesma who describes the essence of "Dr. Fe del Mundo: A Beautiful Life":

"Having tirelessly dedicated her life to improving health care for children and underserved families in her country, having selflessly engaged in humanitarian service for over eight decades, having quietly acted as an inspiration to thousands of medical service professionals whose minds she has shaped, having been permanently enshrined in the hearts and affections of the countless patients she has cared for and cured, and possessing a deep humility in believing herself undeserving of acclaim, **Dr. Fe del Mundo** – whose name means **"Faith of the World"** – undoubtedly ranks among the greatest souls to have ever walked this earth."

"CARING FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES"

P-Noy orders gov't to ready Korea evacuation

BAGUIO CITY—President Aquino yesterday ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to prepare and list all evacuation protocols in case Filipinos living in South Korea needed to be repatriated as tension rose after North Korea aimed dozen shells on a territorial island of the South on Tuesday.

Mr. Aquino, who visited this summer capital yesterday, said he had talked with the Philippine ambassador to South and North Korea during a national security meeting on Thursday to determine the security situation in the peninsula.

"The briefing ... had to do with the relative capabilities of the South and the North Korean peninsula [and the] probability of engagement and [they said] that they don't expect it [to escalate]," Mr. Aquino told reporters here.

He said he was informed that the DFA had already reached out to Filipinos who could be harmed as a conflict. At least 30,000 Filipinos are living in South Korea.

Do test runs

"But I directed the DFA to make sure they do test runs in case an evacuation becomes necessary. I also asked the DFA to talk to the Japanese government [because that] closest point of evacuation is about 50 kilometers from Japan," he said.

"If we fly them straight to the Philippines, it [would be] a four-hour trip, one way and our capabilities to do it [would rely on] our C-130 [cargo plane], and our LCU [a designation for land-based ships]. An LCU-ship would take 18 days [to reach the country]."

Mr. Aquino said he also alerted the commercial airlines about a possible evacuation and had set aside a budget to fund these trips.

9 Filipinos in N. Korea

"The most critical is the area around Seoul [which is close to the] demilitarized zone ... and where the bulk of our 50,000 Filipinos stay," he said.

"I was surprised we also have nine Filipinos in North Korea, but I was told it would be the United Nations that would take responsibility for their security since they brought them [to an aid worker]," Mr. Aquino said.

The DFA staff said yesterday that it had arranged for the repatriation of the country's air and sea assets should evacuation of Filipino workers in South Korea become necessary.

The department will also send today a six-person delegation to Seoul led by Special Envoy Rex Gatchalian and DFA Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs executive director Bernardo Espinosa to firm up contingency plans.

Situation quiet

Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Esteban Conejos said the situation in Korea remained quiet, and that he had no any reason to believe the threat of invasion would continue.

"The statements from the president [of North Korea] have been very encouraging in the sense that there is no effort on the part of all the parties concerned to try to achieve a stable situation in Korea," he said.

As of the moment, there are no outdoor happenings that is going a quiet. DFAs are not doing that contingency planning? Basically, as the President said, while we hope for the best, we must likewise be prepared for the worst-case scenario," he said.

In the event of a precautionary evacuation, Conejos said aerial and air assets would be deployed to Jeju from the 911 active workers.

Airlines contacted

"We have already made contact with commercial airlines, Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific, which have indicated their readiness to deploy their aircraft to be used for evacuation purposes within 24 hours' notice. The Philippine Air Force has a C-130 ready to be deployed," he said.

Conejos said the Philippine Navy assets will ready with two ships and a patrol ship, including civilian commercial vessels which are commissioned by the naval force. He added that the Navy would also contact leaders of the shipping industry to enlist their support.

Conejos stressed that an evacuation scenario would only occur once the DFA had raised alert level 4. At the moment, he disclosed, the Philippine Embassy in South Korea was still at alert level 1.

Still on alert

Alert level 1 means heightened security, in which Filipino nationals are instructed to stay alert, keep tuned to the news and ensure that their travel documents are ready. Alert level 2 means restriction of movement, where citizens are advised to stay in safe areas and told to avoid unnecessary travel or movement.

Alert level 3 means mandatory relocation, in which Filipinos are directed to move out of China areas and proceed immediately to pre-designated staging areas or "areas of convergence," alert level 4 is evacuation, in which Filipinos are told to leave the storming out of the areas of convergence and proceed immediately to exit points.

Korean protest

In Metro Manila, leaders of South Korean associations relocated in numbers some 70,000 Koreans demanded an apology from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, who has been rumored to succeed his father, Kim Jong-Il, for the shelling of Yeonpyeong island that killed four people.

Paul Cheng, president of the Busan-based Northern Luzon Association of Koreans, said he and some 300 Koreans from the business, education and religious sectors would expand the statement that urged Kim Jong-un to submit his militants to the world.

"We will not tolerate the savage actions of the North this time," said Cheng, quoting from their statement.

In a statement, the Busan-based Federal in Taguig City Chang said South Koreans and abroad had joined hands in "condemning the brutal attacks and aggression" of North Korea and were urging North Korea to respond "like a man."

There are nine Korean associations in the country with Baguio having the largest Korean population, next to Metro Manila. Vincent Cabreros and Siddhartt Abuche, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and RJ Dip

ANGRY KOREANS A South Korean national shouts anti-North Korea slogans during a rally on Friday. About 200 South Koreans residing in the Philippines staged a protest in a Korean school in Taguig City against North Korea's artillery attack on Yeonpyeong island. AFP

North Korea warns of 'brink of war'

MILITARY VISIT Gen. Walter L. Sharp, Commander of United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea, inspects artillery bunkers destroyed by North Korean artillery shelling, at a village on Yeonpyeong Island on Friday. AFP

plan of those triggers happy elements to stage again new provocations against the [South]," the North's official KCNA news agency said.

North enraged

"... The army and people of the DPRK [North Korea] are now getting enraged at the provocations of the puppet group. Hostile forces[, while] getting fully ready to give a shower of shrapnels [on and] blow together the lair of the enemies if they dare to encroach again upon the DPRK's dignity and sovereignty even in the least."

Pyongyang has used such inflammatory language in the past. It was unclear whether it would try to escalate the dull.

North Korea staged an artillery drill yesterday within earshot of Yeonpyeong. The distant sound of the latest shelling sent jittery residents of the tiny island's school scrambling for cover and shelter.

South Korea said it appeared to be an exercise and no shells landed on its territory.

Armistice violation

The top US commander in South Korea, Gen. Walter Sharp, visited Yeonpyeong during the brief pause.

He denounced Tuesday's attack as a violation of the armistice which ended the 1950-53 war.

The heightened tension was reflected in deepens the euro as much as 2.2 percent. The stock market closed 1.3 percent down, in line with the wider region.

"Investors are guessing more [as to] what's the next military reaction," said Kim Hyoung-wook, a market analyst at Mi Investment Securities. "The key concern is whether South Korea will again take unforeseen, rash actions."

New defense chief

Seoul named a former military chief to its new defense minister to try to ensure confidence in the armed forces, after their allegedly feeble response to Tuesday's deadly bombardment of Yeonpyeong island.

South's allegedly weak response also drew strong criticism from newspapers crying out for revenge, and Kim Tae-young stepped down on Thursday to defuse matters.

President Lee Myung-bak on Friday named Kim Kwan-jin, former chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to the post.

"We have been exposed to a typical problem with nationality and strong leadership," said senior reporter by public affairs Hong Sung-Pyo.

Hong said the new minister, 61, was expected "to restore people's trust in the military and enhance military morale."

Show of strength

The United States is sending in an aircraft carrier group led by the nuclear-powered USS George Washington for joint drills with the military exercises with South Korea starting on Sunday.

Planned before the week's attack, the four-day maneuvers are a show of strength which, besides enraging North Korea, have already unsettled China, its neighbor and major ally.

Washington is pressing China to rein in its ally North Korea to help ease tension in the world's fastest-growing economic region.

US President Barack Obama is due to visit Chinese President Hu Jintao within days, a White House official said.

A Chinese Foreign ministry spokesperson said the Seoul should be exercising the utmost restraint[and] urged the United States, China, Japan and the United States. He also expressed concern about the US-South Korea military exercises.

China has long propped up the Pyongyang leadership, worried that a collapse of North Korea could bring instability to its own borders.

Beijing is also wary of a unified Korea that would be dominated by the United States.

Reclusive North

Inclusive and unpredictable North Korea has defied international efforts to halt its nuclear ambitions. Its last major attack was in 2002 when it sank a South Korean warship in the disputed waters of the Yellow Sea, killing 46 sailors.

In response, the South fired 80 shells at the North's coastal artillery positions. 13 minutes later causing widespread panic for cops it did not call in air strikes, to avoid escalating the conflict.

The South will send more troops and guns to bear from the islands and said it would change the rules of engagement to let its military hit back harder against any future attacks.

Hardliners

Hundreds of former South Korean soldiers held a protest rally in the border town yesterday, accusing the government of being too weak in its response to the attack, Yonhap news agency reported in Seoul.

"The fully government's policies toward North Korea are too soft," said Kim Hyung-pil, president of the association of ex-Marines, telling, "It needs to take revenge on a 'smash-it-mad dogs'."

Many observers believe the week's attack was meant to highlight the military credentials of the North's heir apparent, Kim Jong-un, youngest son of leader Kim Jong-il.

Reports from Reuters and AFP

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'If you want condoms, buy them yourselves'

By Christian V. Esguerra

SENATE MAJORITY Leader Vicente Sotto III yesterday sought to block the approval of a portion of the Department of Health's budget which was reportedly intended for the purchase of condoms and other types of contraceptives next year.

The DOH included the allocation for family planning services and essential drugs in its proposed P60.7-billion budget for 2011 amid efforts to pass the reproductive health bill before the House of Representatives.

During interpellation, Sotto asked Sen. Franklin Drilon about the wisdom of spending P880 million allocation on contraceptives, supposedly hidden in gibberish such as "leveraging services" and "procurement of logistics."

Sotto said the amount would better be used for other services such as financial aid for farmers and fisherfolks driven to withdraw the problem of lethal and maternal mortality.

"If you want to buy a condom, go buy it yourself," the senator said. "Why ask money from the government for it?"

Drilon agreed to look into how the P880 million would be spent during the period of amendments.

"How the P880 million will be spent...whether or not it will include contraceptives—is something that is still the subject of debate," he told reporters.

"This is not the time to convince each other on the validity of each other's position and we are fully aware of this difference in opinion and maybe it is best that we move on and see what kind of wording we can have in the period of amendment that can satisfy all parties," he said earlier in the plenary deliberations.

Under questioning by Sotto, Drilon said the distribution of the P880 million would depend on the specific needs of local government units.

JOSE BURGOS AWARDS

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje and Edita Burgos, executive director of the Jose Burgos Media Services Inc. award the logo of the 2010 Jose Burgos for Biotech Journalism Team Fund in yesterday's ceremonies at the DENR of Role 0410 in Pasay City, the board of judges of the awards was also introduced.

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Shell closes 35 stations

By Abigail L. Ho

A FULL SUPPLY shortage caused by the continued closure of Pilipinas Petroleum Industrial Corp.'s (PPIC) pipeline has forced Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. to shut down 35 of its stations within Metro Manila.

Shell vice president Roberto Banzali said the oil firm was doing everything it could to make supply move faster from its Batangas refinery to the retail outlets, but the absence of the pipeline had begun to take its toll.

"We can't replace the efficiency of the pipeline, even with additional barges, ships, and road tankers. We expect supply to deteriorate further," he said in a telephone interview yesterday.

He explained that while Shell had a business continuity plan, this was formulated on the assumption of a pipeline disaster that would last up to a maximum of one week.

Since the PPIC pipeline had been operational for more than that period, he said a shortage in supply could no longer be avoided.

The shutdown of the pipeline due to an oil leak ultimately ran in half Shell's ability to supply its market, he said.

"We're bringing in more trucks and barges, but these are still insufficient to meet demand. One problem also is that these trucks and barges are not off the shelf. They have to be ordered away in advance or leased for the long term. Drivers of oil tankers also have to be properly trained, considering the sensitivity of the product they are handling," he explained.

In getting a ship or barge, for example, he said Shell would need at least a year to complete the entire process—from sourcing to commissioning to everything.

There was also a limited supply of barges that could handle petroleum products in the country, he said, further exacerbating the problem of getting additional ones while the PPIC pipeline was not operating.

Batang Fernando reunion tomorrow

THE GRAND alumni reunion of the Fernando Air Base Elementary School (Fabes) will be held tomorrow on the school campus and base plaza in Fernando Air Base, Lipa City.

Dubbed the "Homing Pigeons Reunion: Through the Years," the whole-day celebration starts with the registration at 7 a.m.

For inquiries, call Jessica Pascua at 0920-xxxx-x12.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 27, 2010
(34th Week in Ordinary Time)

1st Reading: Rev 22:1-7
Gospel: Lk 21:34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be on your guard, lest our minds be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and worldly cares, and that day catch you suddenly as a trap. For it will come upon all the inhabitants of the whole earth. But watch at all times and pray, that you may be able to escape all that is to happen, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Commentary:

"Be on watch and pray always that you will have the strength to go safely through all these things that will happen and to stand before the Son of Man."

Consciousness of God is the presence of God in life.

It is learning to realize, then, that God's ways, though not always our ways, are the very things that keep us aware of God with us.

"Pray on the ways that keep us close to God. Then nothing can weaken our determination to endure.

Noynoy makes whirlwind visit to Baguio for a Jollibee burger

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By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—The city government closed a stretch of Harrison Road and convinced a government bank to suspend work yesterday to President Aquino could spot an order of the fastfood chain Jollibee and eat a slice of a giant hamburger that was prepared for his visit.

Mr. Aquino's official schedule in the city was limited to under three hours, so he declined an audience with Caridderos and Baguio officials seeking answers to various issues, including the restoration of roads damaged by typhoons in 2009.

Since 8 a.m., students of a local Chinese school and their children stood behind a barrier set on Harrison Road for a glimpse of Mr. Aquino, who arrived by helicopter from La Union.

AQUINO

Bank closed

The Harrison Road branch of the Land Bank of the Philippines had to be closed on Friday morning because of the crowd that built up near the fastfood branch.

Albert Uy Candrasan, Jollibee vice president for marketing, said Mr. Aquino was the first president to open a Jollibee outlet, the company's 700th store.

When he ordered a burger, Aquino managed to convince the President to skip an hour of work to formally open a store that has been operating since early this year and eat a burger. Candrasan said the visit was Mr. Aquino's birthday.

Jollibee, he said, had asked previous presidents to help promote the business but no one had time to spare as presidential events that involved Jollibee had been held in Malacañang.

Candrasan recalled questions concerning the relationship between Aquino and Tony Tan Caktiong, Jollibee Foods Corporation and Emesto Tanmantiong, the company president.

"What they have been part of the business reign organized by the Presidential security Group members all guard.

"We are here to protect the re-alignment of funds meant for state colleges and universities. We are also here to protest the President's private public partnership policy because it means more funds means for public service would be replaced by private undertakings," said one of the protesters.

A female police officer tried to stop a student by shoving a handkerchief into her mouth, but police allowed the group to back away, with photographers and reporters trailing them.

Aquino explains

Mr. Aquino did not come out of the room to meet them. But as he proceeded out of the store, he said protests over the budget cuts for state universities and colleges (SUCs) had failed to see the bigger picture.

"What is our real priority? Basic education, so we don't end up making mistakes that have to be corrected when students reach high school and college... The education drive is really composed of basic education, technical and vocational education and higher education. We had to reduce the money meant for SUCs so we can augment [the budget for] basic education," Mr. Aquino said.

He said promising students failed to see that SUCs have other sources of funds other than the annual General Appropriation Act, citing as example the potential revenues from the Ayala Technohub that is being developed on a University of the Philippines property in Diliman, Quezon City.

Mr. Aquino said government could instead help SUCs "identify the other sources of funds."

Homegrown investments

His speech about Jollibee laid out his fundamental belief in homegrown investments, which justified his program for partnering public and private investments.

"I have a deep trust in Filipinos who invest their own money. To help the economy grow[," Mr. Aquino said.

He said too many cities apparently want to see grocers, mart fail by accusing him of "selling out the country... to foreigners."

"They only invest. What they build is ours. We have gaps in our financial capability and this would have been different had corruption not reigned in this country before. I took office. Public private partnerships are important so we can use the government's money for public services, such as education and job creation," Mr. Aquino said.

Jollibee, he said, encourages other local entrepreneurs to invest in their own country, having been adjudged one of the top entrepreneurs in Asia. With a report from Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Appointment of climate change commission's vice chair hailed

PUERTO PRINCESA City Mayor Edward Hagedorn yesterday welcomed what he called "the decisive rapid action" by President Aquino to resolve the festering leadership crisis in the Climate Change Commission with the appointment of Lucille Sering as the commission's vice chair.

"This is a major step in the right direction. We have great confidence in the ability of Commissioner Lucille Sering to lead the country's response to the climate crisis. The President made the right choice and I want to assure him of the support of Puerto Princesa in pursuit of the country's plans to combat the menace of climate change," said Hagedorn, an environmentalist.

Local governments need coherent, sustained support from national government, Hagedorn said.

"There is hope," Hagedorn said in a press statement. He added it was clear that the Aquino administration had to sponsor a pro-active stance on climate change.

Earlier this week, Aquino administered the oath of office to Mary Ann Lucille Sering as the commission's new vice chairperson, replacing former Sen. Heherson T. Alvarez.

Alvarez, Sering and Commissioner Nadarev Yaber were appointed to the Climate Change Commission by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Signed into law in late 2009, Republic Act 9729 established the Climate Change Commission, headed by the President who sits as the body's chair.

'I'm sure, somewhere out there, he's helping out Noy'

From page A1

proudly to his son, Noynoy, the President—a role that Ninoy himself never lived to fill.

"Maybe my dad would be nothing but another 'ex' if he's like that? Why is it like that? Isn't this a better way?," said a smiling Kris.

"But I'm sure somewhere out there, he's helping out Noy," she said in an interview at **the launch yesterday** of **Yellow Ribbon**, a feature of some 20 stalls selling Ninoy and Cory Aquino memorabilia at La Plaza Theodosio, in Pasig City.

The bazaar, which will run from Nov. 26 to 28, was a brainchild of the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation (NCAF), in cooperation with other institutions, Ninoy and Cory Aquino's lives were centered on this whole idea of getting themselves and basically—to lift this way to mark Ninoy's birthday would be more memorable," said Isabel Lopa, NCAF executive director.

'The sun is up'

Lopa said he found it difficult to picture a Philippines with Ninoy alive and very much involved.

"If Ninoy did not die, then this country would have a different future altogether. It's very difficult to imagine him" in media-what-if scenario, he said.

Whatever he is now, the important thing is the spirit of Ninoy reminds us for," Lopa said.

Bailey said she felt that if Ninoy would observe the country now and see how his life and martyrdom have profoundly shaped its history, "he would be proud."

But "he would not relax and sit around. He was never the type to just relax. He was such a hyper person," she said.

"When we were little, like it's a Saturday morning and we're sleeping in, he'd just sit our legs, and say, 'wgo kayong, ano ba... the sun is up,'" she recalled.

Man of action

She said Ninoy was such a man of action that he was always the person to turn to during times of crisis.

"Even when it came to personal problems, financial problems, people went to him. If there's a relative, or a death or an accident, he would not think twice about helping out," she said.

"He was the type who would say forgive me, but you need to do something now," Bailey said.

Lopa said the goodness of history can what Filipinos need to make this country great.

"There is a Ninoy in each of us, and the answer we discover that and do something about that, I think the answer this country will be better," he said.

"We owe how nice Aquino's sacrifice turned this country's destiny, and many years after his death, he continues to influence us. If we can constantly become Ninoys and Corys in our lifetime, this country is going to be great," he said.

Prophetic words

Bailey quoted from a letter that Ninoy wrote in Jan. to 1973, which read: "Help Noynoy along and pray that he will grow to be a real, responsible man who in later years will prove worthy of the Filipino people who loved under very different circumstances, and that it was unfair to compare them.

"President Noy is himself. It is unfair to compare President Noy to his father. One thing I can say is, I hate to take my hat off to Noynoy. Now for taking on the challenge of getting this country off the ground," he said.

"President Noy could have chosen not to run. He had had died, his mom had died, and with the pressures that even today bear on the family, especially the children, they can actually get out and say 'enough, we've done our part,'" he said.

"But he lost, is actually taking on the challenge says a lot about the person President Noy is and I think no matter what happens, the purity of his intentions and the purity of his motivation to get this country off the ground is very much like his father and mother," he said.

"If he succeeds, everyone will do will be different. Only what his father would have done, Lopa said.

"I think President Noy is going to be one of our heroes if not the best President this country will ever have," he said.

INQUIRER, THE BOOK
Ninoy Aquino's assassination in 1983 sparked daily protests that culminated in the People Power revolt led by his widow President Cory in 1986. That duality and drama, for 25 years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer chronicled the events which changed the course of Philippine history. Before leaving the chaos would lead to the rise of the current President Noynoy, INQ7.net asked its readers to choose "Defining Moments in 25 years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer."

When UP was king Sports made it to Page 1

From page A4

championship by beating defending champion and heavy favorite University of the East.

It was the first title title of UP in its 66 years as a member of UAAP.

UP trailed

October 1986 was just my sixth month as a PDI sportswriter. My then editor Manolo Bigg assigned me to cover the second game of the UAAP title showdown between the UP Maroons and the UE Warriors.

At that time, the Inquirer main office was located on Eliza, Mandaluyong City, in a building which used to house the Madrid Bookstore and was right beside the Polymedic Hospital. (Now Dr. Vicente Fernandez Medical Center.) (Note: The Inquirer's original office was at the corner 13th and Railroad streets, Port Area, Manila, in a building owned by Betty Go-Belmonte. The Inquirer left that office in May 1986.)

After witnessing UP as cheered on the twilka of Jun Ho Han, Ronnie Magsanoc and Eric Altamirano, overpower UE, led by Jerry Codiñera, at the Elliza in Pasig, I rushed back to the Inquirer.

Rooster in the newsroom

The editorial office was on the second floor of the former glossy-line dining restaurant. The newsroom was on the main dining room. One climbed a flight of stairs and entered the room on your right through swinging glass doors. What stood out in that converted editorial office were the staff's small-sized carpet and the mirrors on almost all the walls.

Brilliant, air-unhatched newsroom, used to bring his lucrative income to the office and made it pounce around the room.

This was just what he was doing when I shouted upon entering the newsroom: "UP wins the UAAP."

I was actually telling the attention of the sports writers, but it was Brilliant who reacted.

"That will be our editorial for tomorrow and I will write it," said Brilliant.

Only crown

In the corner of the "on stands bed" that was PDI's front page of Oct. 26, 1986, some

UP IS VICTORY in UAAP man's basketball as stared alumni of the State University to the bespeak that the story was placed on the front page. It also marked an editorial piece complete with an editorial cartoon in the op-ed section.

column story about "UP wins UAAP title By U. DE LA ROSA."

What sealed my world was the editorial on Page 4, "The champions of the UP" pen. Based on box by Brilliant.

Beside that editorial was Alfredo Lagumbay, Jr. chanted UP head coach Joe Lipa leading the Maroons over Brillers to snatch the Finals first. Lipa was saying to the cameras "After 48 years! Can you believe we finally made it?"

As a passenger to that story, 24 years later, that 1986 championship is still UP's only men's basketball crown in the UAAP.

Here is Brilliant's editorial comment of that unprecedented event in collegiate basketball history:

The champions of the UP

For the last 48 years, the University of the Philippines has produced Presidents, Chief Justices of the Supreme Court, Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, over half the legislature at any given time, a majority of the top 10 per cent of the government bureaucracy, innumerable scientists, poets, engineers, lawyers, etc., etc.

In that same 48 years of its existence, it has even produced a chairman of the Communist Party and a chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front, and various crooks in government service, in the private sector, along with various priests and civic leaders.

In those 48 years, however, the UP has failed to produce a single basketball championship in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) annual cookfest.

Several times, during the past years, thousands of UP alumni marched with bated breath as their Maroons came close but never quite made it.

Yesterday, the sun finally rises, the flowers bloomed, the Carillon worked, the fire sprinkler rained instead of rumbled and UP's Fourth, propelled by its Fabulous Five, caught Ateneo the proverbial horse.

The UP Men's Basketball team ended a 48-year drought in an amazing waterfall of Push and Fight against the game-and-bowling champions, the UE Warriors.

Congratulations are in order, for the UP athletes, all of them, for UP President Edgardo J. Angara and the Sigma Rho fraternity which sponsored the team, and to the UP administration and alumni—for especially for UP Coach Joe Lipa, whose 48 years of hope and hard work has finally paid off.

They're strong, they're invincible, they're women

From page A1

games in UAAP basketball.

If you're a sports writer who writes about sweating coins, the chances of getting the readers' attention go exponentially dimmer. I am one of them. But I never allowed it to stop me from bringing my A-game to the table.

Lately, I covered the men's and women's basketball championships. It was basketball, yes. But it was women's basketball. So you don't expect it to have Page 1 treatment. It didn't even have television coverage, to begin with.

Tickets sold randomly for P20,—including ringside seats—but just a handful showed up at the 3,000-seat Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Even during the day of the final match, which was won by the Philippines, by the way.

Packed with drama

Yet the tournament was interesting with drama.

The tournament was supposed to be the ASEAN rivalries' qualifying event for the Guangzhou Asian Games of their own the gold. But because the event was packed back late into the calendar by the SEABA Championship organizers, the Philippines wasn't able to send its entries for the Asiad drawing of lots, which was held three weeks earlier.

Sent first our teams—made up of raw, young girls with elusive pink hairbands—would win over Dirk Nowitzki. Or next and Japanese counterparts for the gold medal. But they demolished defending champion Thailand, which was using the country as part of its Asiad build up.

Run-and-gun plan

The team had been training for years, hoping to finally carve a niche for women's basketball in the region. Because they were small (none of them stood taller than 5-foot-11), their game plan was to run-and-gun, which largely means quick defense and an even quicker offense.

One by one, they'd beat all four other nations, including Thailand, in the eliminations.

The Filipinas had been on the same situation two years ago. Back then they beat the Thais in the elims only to let the championship slip through their fingers by losing to them in the finals.

Not again

To make sure it wouldn't happen again, the Filipinas met the Thais defense by being savvy from long range. It's the steel, they hit 11 three-pointers from six different Filipino players, from just about every angle.

The crowd roared as the arena was jampacked.

So when the final buzzer sounded, the expected happened. The squad, which had never been all their opponents' size—save a few—simply had been knocked defense, all of a sudden became girls again.

Tears flowed like they came from a break up.

In the midst of the celebration, the Filipinas proudly chanted the "volcano burst of pain!", that they can take anything because, as superfitness singer Helen Buddy Day'o strong, they're invincible, they're...women.

And they have a reason to show for it.

Vizconde cop to be freed Tuesday

Pumapag-Al

that a Supreme Court justice was trying to sway fellow members of the tribunal into acquitting Hubert Webb and other men convicted of the crime.

Flaminiano said that Bong would still take part in the review of his conviction, and that the latter was rounding him on his claim of innocence.

"If found guilty, his sentence was already shortened. If acquitted, how can you bring back all those years lost?" Flaminiano said.

He called on Vizconde to "just respect the operation of the law."

On Tuesday, the high court deferred issuing a ruling on the case, saying the justices needed more time to evaluate its merits.

The Supreme Court is still deliberating on the issues of the case—for instance, the guilt of primary suspect Webb, a son of former Sen. Freddie Webb. It is expected to issue a ruling next week.

"We do not want to preempt [the ruling]," Flaminiano said.

But the lawyer maintained that Bong completed his sentence of six years and one day to a maximum of 12 years for being an accessory to the murders.

Bong was initially detained on Sept. 8, 1995.

"He has already reserved his sentence by three years," Flaminiano said. "In my practice, I have never encountered an instance like this."

The issue the government can do is expedite Bong's release because he has already exceeded the maximum sentence, the lawyer said.

Overserved sentence

Then the current investigator of the Vizconde massacre, Bong was convicted as an accessory to the crime for aiding the in viral evidence at the crime scene.

Flaminiano said his client's actions had been recommended by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), an agency under the Department of Justice.

He said Bong was to have been freed on Nov. 29 as the BuCor had recommended.

"Actually, he could have been released three years ago as he was sentenced on Sept. 8, 1995. Unfortunately, the BuCor did not include his three-year imprisonment at the Pasumayan City jail," the lawyer said.

Now a pastor

Flaminiano said Bong became a pastor while doing time in the penitentiary.

"He told me that one of his sentences, under the prison was that not all who are jailed are guilty," the lawyer said, adding that Bong was "a highly principled man who has much to his conscience."

"We could have testified against the suspects for the prosecution," the lawyer also said, referring to mysterious offers for Bong to testify against the then suspects. "But he maintained that he did not know them."

Flaminiano could not say what would happen to Bong's sentence should he be acquitted in the case. "We cannot get back the time he spent there," the lawyer said.

At the least, Flaminiano said, he would check whether his client was eligible for compensation should the predicament arise.

LAUMO VIZCONDE at the gate of his home in BF Homes Paranaque

IN THE KNOW

FORMER policeman Gerardo Biong was convicted as an accessory to the 1991 Vizconde massacre and was sentenced to 6 1-12 years imprisonment. In Parañaque Regional Trial Court Judge Amelita Tolentino on Jan. 6, 2000.

Jessie Alfaro, whose current term would become the main basis of Judge Tolentino's decision, tagged Biong as the person who destroyed physical evidence—including bloodied bed sheets, carpets, clothing and other items—that could have been used in investigating the killing of Estrella Vizconde and her daughters Carmela and Jennifer.

In court, Lolita Rivera, Biong's former live-in partner, also testified for the prosecution and claimed that she had accompanied the ex-cop to the Vizconde house to destroy evidence, retrieve his jacket of Hubert Webb, and his mandin weapon used in the crime.

In December 2005, the Court of Appeals upheld the guilty verdict and upheld the life sentences of the principal accused—Webb, Antonio "Tonyboy" Lejano, Michael Gatchalian, Miguel Rodriguez, Peter Estrada and Pyke Fernandez. Two other suspects, Artz Tiñet and Dong Soriano, remain at large.

In January 2008, the appellate court denied the reconsideration plea of the accused and upheld their life sentences.

Biong's sentence was modified to 6 to 12 years imprisonment. At the time, he was already qualified for release.

But Biong filed a motion for reconsideration seeking an acquittal. He chose not to leave prison, saying it would be tantamount to admitting that he had tampered with evidence at the crime.

Jamie Sarmiento-Guevara, Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

SC, Webbs dare Vizconde to name names

Pumapag-Al

blood over [the's] strong influence and to ring the issues," Vizconde said.

Asked if the latter went to Palace to use the actual word used by the other justice, Vizconde said: "That was the exact word used and to see by my copies."

Obvious reference

Asst. Solic. Marquez, Supreme Court spokesperson and administrator, said that while the tribunal "communicates" with Vizconde, he should have first verified the information before coming out in the media.

"I think allegations like these, before being brought out, should be substantiated," Marquez said in a news briefing.

Although Vizconde did not identify the justice in the bounce interview, Marquez said the sentence was obviously referring to Carpio.

Then spokesperson Jarvis Cupin clarified in court to corroborate Webb's alibi that he was in the United States when the murders occurred on June 30, 1991.

Cupin, said to be a close friend of Freddie Webb's, testified that he spoke with the basketball superintendent politician at the time of the killings and that he knew that Hubert Webb was with his father then.

Marquez reiterated that Vizconde's statement was "pure speculation." He pointed out that Carpio immediately labelled himself then as the disclosure's source so the case reached the high court.

"The allegation alone says that it's hearsay. He (Vizconde) will have to prove that allegation," Marquez said.

Asked if Carpio had any comment, he said the justice "will not digress that occasion with a comment."

The same complainant's refusal he inhibited and his explanation was accepted. Therefore, he is already out of this case," Marquez said, adding:

"So justice will allow himself to be influenced by someone who has admitted from a certain time."

As to whether Carpio was considering asking Vizconde, Marquez said that he had not spoken with the justice, and that he did not think the latter would "go to that extent."

Conscience

Marquez said that if Vizconde could corroborate his claims, he may file a complaint with the high court's ethics committee.

Despite the controversy, Marquez expressed confidence that the 14 other justices would vote on the case based on their conscience and their wisdom.

He said that while it was possible that Vizconde's statements were meant to put pressure on the justices, the high court could outbounce "this unsubstantiated allegation."

"You can expect that individual justices will be ruling in their appreciation of the facts. I don't think they will be influenced one way or the other by the allegation of Mr. Vizconde," he said.

Marquez said that unlike in Congress, lobbying was not common in the Supreme Court because the justices deliberate on cases collectively during their en banc sessions.

"During deliberations, they can argue against each other, and that is the strongest way of convincing themselves of the position of the respective justices," Marquez said.

"I don't see any other way of trying to convince a colleague to vote for your position other than deliberations," he said.

Discount, paired

Freddie Webb did not hide his disdain over Vizconde's remarks, saying he never used his connection and influence when he was a senator.

"Had you been working or fighting for the right of your son [who was accused] of a crime that was impossible for him to have committed," he said.

According to the father, the passage of time has not lessened the pain of family members whenever they have Webb's picture still at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City after a visit.

There were times that he almost lost hope in the justice system and his faith in God, he said.

What has kept alive the family's support for Webb was "love and devotion and trust in the Lord."

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE CARPIO: His talk

FORMER Sen. Freddie Webb (2d left) and son Hubert (far right)

"We are just like anyone who have conclusions but experts happen," he said.

Both GMA 7, Webb's media like affords said in Filipino that her pain was again," coming alive."

It's like adding salt to an open wound. We played it fair, we believed in the system, we allowed the system to run its natural course. [and now this], Lies and lies and lies!" she said.

"Our case from Day One has been dictated or [swayed] by public opinion. They did not even listen to facts. They just insinuate ... And this time, it's the same thing again. It's again insinuations."

As for Vizconde's claim that Carpio's wife was a cousin of hers, Elizabeth Webb said: "I have not seen her ... I don't have any relative no person like that's, as far as I know."

She said "we asked Attorney Cupin if he could testify only on that, that he [only] conversation with Freddie."

She wanted, he went to the [Pasumayan] Supreme Court. And that was the first and the last time we have seen Jarvis Cupin," she said.

'Vicious attack'

Reached on his mobile phone, Webb's lawyer Demetrio Custodio described Vizconde's allegations as "a very irresponsible statement and a vicious attack not only on the justice involved but also on the entire Supreme Court."

"This is a very bad time for him to make the allegation[s] now that the Supreme Court is under scrutiny. This could partake the image of the [high court]," Custodio said.

"Therefore, I think the person making that statement should come out and explain why he ... is doing something like this," he said.

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OPINION

Becoming human

LAST NOV. 20, a group of about 20 people calling itself Philippine Freethinkers went to the Manila Cathedral where a "Prayer Service for Discernment with Holy Mass—Point of Discernment: RH Bill" was being held. They were there, they said, to express support for the bill. The church bulletin board said, "Everyone is cordially invited."

EDITORIAL

The prayer service had been organized by Pro-Life Philippines, led by its president, Eric Manalang, one of the RH bill's most outspoken opponents.

The Filipino Freethinkers group acceded to the request by Martin Wauss, executive director of Pro-Life Philippines, not to enter the church. They stayed on the mezzanine, where, after the service, Manalang and his group approached them and brazenly chided them for their presence. In the video that has been posted online, Manalang can be seen losing his cool and yelling at the group: "Satan, get away from us! You should have asked your mother to abort you!"

The Freethinkers group has also reported in its blog that "Duty [Pro-Life Philippines] distributed pamphlets claiming, among other things, that even latex condoms—which they wrongly consider abortifacients—could give cancer, heart attacks, stroke and disabilities to the user and their offspring. They claimed that there was universal evidence that condoms use increased the spread of AIDS. There is absolutely no evidence that supports any of these claims—and plenty of evidence that contradicts them."

Why is this event significant? Only because, with controversies from Pope Benedict XVI himself, the rag seems to have been pulled from under Manalang and his band of conservative, condom-hating Catholics. There it is splashed on the headlines of papers worldwide: Benedict, the most doctrinaire of recent pontiffs, declaring that condoms are the "lesser evil" when it comes to the tush question of preserving human life.

Between having unprotected sex and putting one's partner at risk of thousands such as HIV, for instance, and employing the device that science has said can dramatically decrease the incidence of infections, but which the Church has condemned as intrinsically evil and anathema to conservatives Catholic living, the Pope now says using one does one, in some cases, be "a first step in the direction of a more humane, a first assumption of responsibility."

Benedict's choice of a new case for this chance shift to his thinking, first mentioned in the book "Light of the World," was rather curious: the wish of male prostitutes. However, Rev. Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesperson, would subsequently elaborate that the Pope wasn't referring exclusively to men. The use of condoms could now be justified if it served protecting the life of another—"whether it's a man or a woman or a transsexual."

The Church's ban on condoms as artificial contraception apparently remains. But by his clear acknowledgment that the Vatican's absolute prohibition of condoms can stop in fact be endangering millions of lives, particularly in AIDS-ravaged Africa, Benedict has thrown everything else into inscrutable territory. As late as last year, the Pope ignited a firestorm when, on his visit to Africa, he said distributing condoms as a means of AIDS prevention only "aggravates" the disease.

Think how that benighted view seems as ancient now as at least completely discredited, with his stunning turnaround.

"We're in a new world," noted Jon Fuller, a Jesuit priest and a physician at the Center for HIV/AIDS Care and Research at Boston Medical Center. What the Pope is "implicitly" saying, he said, is "that you cannot anymore raise the objection that any use of the condom is an intrinsic evil."

Where does that leave new Pro-Life Philippines and its pamphlets proclaiming that condoms "give cancer, heart attacks, stroke and disabilities..." and that its "are interested the spread of AIDS"? Where does that leave those who play exorcise, shrieking "Begone, Satan!" as people whose only offense is having opinions different from their own?

With one stroke, the Pope has opened, dispelling on one's point of view, either a can of worms or a window to let a blast of fresh air in. It's nothing less than a "game changer," as the Jesuit writer and editor James Martin put it.

Given the deeply contentious nature of this issue, many more questions and clarifications will undoubtedly ensue between the Vatican and its startled worldwide congregation. But for now, by tweaking rigid doctrine in favor human life, Benedict and the Church seem to have become more reasonable and more—dare we say it—human.

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Francesco who?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"LOOK, Lola," Kathie one 4-year-old granddaughter insisted. She and sister, Kristin, 7, dressed as the Christmas décor that their mother Aurelia had put up. A Christian born again stopped a living nativity scene.

"Now someone must, Francesco di Bernardone's manger outlives for kids like Kristin and Kathie," we told the suits.

Francesco who?

Pressed for facts, that's also. He was a soldier and drunken son of a wealthy North Umbrian cloth merchant. But he toasted aside his inheritance and opted for a life of poverty, prayer and helping lepers. "Preach the Gospel at all times," he taught. "Use words necessary, see words."

His life drew many into the order of the Franciscans. The Order of St. Clare took in women who adopted his rule of poverty and prayer. This radiant panhandler was canonized in 1228.

Weird, make-me-a-instrument-of-your-peace? Where there is hatred, let me sow love," one of Francis' prayers begins, to "Gentleness of the Sun," he sings. "Be praised, O Lord, for Sister Death." From whom embrace no one can escape. "

During Advent of 1223, Francis asked a friend, Giovanni Reiliu, to put up a below in a dark forlorn cave in Greccio. "Prepare something as I tell you," he said. "I want to depict the birth of the Child of Bethlehem in a way that we may see all its lacked..."

That night sparkled with torches as people trekked through the forests to the *pranzo* (with). St. Bonaventure recounts. The manger had been arranged in such a way that Mass was celebrated over it. Francis used the Homily sermon. "Those behind ceased their necks" to see the Child's a manger.

"The originality of St. Francis was at once known and greater than is sometimes realized," Jesuit de Sedoch writes in "The Christmas Gift." "It lay, not in inventing those things, but in being able to take old traditions and hand them on in an expectant world, enriched and bearing the stamp of his own genius."

A small plaque in the Umbrio cave today reads: "In this chapel Francis laid Christ to the Crib."

Over the centuries, this devotion spread worldwide. The French call it *crèche*, Spanish and Hispanic one, *nacimientos* and Germans *krippe*.

The crib reminded Loyola School of Theology's Catalina Antonio, 10 of an interview that Edward Schillebeeckx gave. The Belgian theologian had just finished their his three-volume work on Christ.

"Where did you learn your deepest theological ego?" Schillebeeckx was asked. The interviewer expected him to name renowned theological centers where he taught. "Answer: Le Saulchoir? Nijmegen?"

Schillebeeckx's answer was unexpected. At home, he said, in my childhood, in the Christmas crib in our living room. "My father spent time telling us about the stable of Bethlehem, and Luke's story and John. We babe in the manger was Mary's son and God's very own son, and how he became a babe because he loved each one of us, because God wanted to give his life for, and to, the world, to share its joys with us."

Here, we call the crib a *belen* or Bethlehem. Some officers families display a carved Christmas crèche. But poverty here is a smothering stark reality. In many homes, the Nativity is often portrayed by single cutouts or rough statuettes, propped on a table. Yes, they don't resemble the well-fed children. Dioscoro de la Cruz, 53 said in a 1998 homily at the UN desk to six institutions.

"We have newborns, not orphaned, in our homes, no cutouts. The stable is a ripa hut. Shepherds are farmers and fishermen dressed in native garb. Toys adorn the below's entrance. Herod's palace is a white mansion, like that of rich on-lapse. The Three Kings ride black caribaos, not Arabian horses."

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A Conditional Cash Transfer spot check

LAST WEEK 11, the UP School of Economics hosted a public Forum on Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT). After presentations on the role of CCT in the government's anti-poverty strategy and the global evidence on its performance, there was a panel discussion of the design and implementation of CCT in the Philippines.

I had been invited to the panel to account of a pilot spot check of CCT in Northern Samar, done earlier this year by Social Weather Stations for the World Bank, in behalf of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The WB and the DSWD gave permission to share that project's experiences at this last session held before the holidays.

Although the purpose of the project was to test and refine survey procedures for improving CCT field operations, prior to doing its previous full-scale, it also had substantive findings about the very poor province of Northern Samar, one of the roughest in the Eastern Visayas.

SWS was delivered to do spot checks in the towns of Mondragon, Pambujan and Palapag. Four 2008-provided random samples of CCT grantees, 1810 in all, and surveyed 360 households and 1,706 child beneficiaries in those towns, and asked them questions about the CCT conditions: school attendance, visits to schools, 24-hour bellies, and "ano na ang itsura" (DSWD-lined field officers who researched how grantees use the CCT program.

In general, the CCT in Northern Samar is successful. The grantees are truly poor. They overcome the cash grants regularly and religiously: three every month. P600 per month for families with one child, and up to P1,400 per month for those with three children, are small by middle-class standards but quite meaningful to the poor. In remote Social Weather Survey, median poverty thresholds of poor families like those in Mondragon have been only P5,000-P6,000 per month. Most of the time the money goes to the children's school expenses.

But Northern Samar, unfortunately, has only one Land Bank branch. CCT grantees need to go to this capital, Catarman, to collect money by ATM or over the counters, with an average round trip time of over two hours, via the boats, the pitching and gambling by the children's supposedly lazy fathers. Based on considerable experience with cross-country surveys, I can report there are PE quites are average members of humanity, with vices and virtues present among us, cute as well as evasive, as capable of some degree as among others. In many areas, but in the nation that Filipinos are voluntarily handicapped are, in my opinion, suffering because inherently complex if they are Filipinos, or because superseverly complex if they are foreigners.

Riley's rating in relation to the Maguindanao massacre. Last week, SWS reported in September 2010 survey finding of 47 percent of the public dissatisfied, and only 31 percent satisfied, with what the government had done to resolve the Maguindanao massacre with justice.

The poor net rating of -12 on this issue is the worst grade of the national administration among 14 subjects graded, as per a survey SWS release. Only one other issue is negatively rated, namely the drug 23 hostage taking by Rolando Mendoza, which got a net -5.

They are to contrast to the seven consistently favorable grades of the administration on resolving graft and corruption and fighting inflation, which usually scored completely in the pots, and most recently very good +164 net rating of the administration's general performance, a new record-high since 1989.

The poorest grades of government performance on every important public matter for a ruling on the president's rating. The people are his other as when the buck stops.

* * *

Contact: DBM, www.sws.org.ph or mailto:mon.gabuya@sws.org.ph.

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

[illegible] prompted to find more efficient ways of distributing the cards.)

Compliance with the CCT education condition (children 13 years old 85 percent school attendance) is very high in Northern Samar. School records validate what parents say. The spot check revealed that school enrollment rates should not be computed using standard age ranges for elementary or high school, since many poor families have overage children enrolled. The CCT promotes enrollment of children who should have started school earlier, or who skipped one or more years of school. Being overage for a certain grade is perfectly OK to not attending school at all. The CCT children attend school, making do with slim lighting and [illegible] and have the same chances to learn.

Compliance with health conditionalities in Northern Samar is good but could be improved. Only the great majority, rather than all, of the children are fully immunized and receive full dose of deworming pills. The preference is about supply of health materials, facilities, and services. Since pregnant mothers are less smart pregnant women rely on traditional birth attendants.

The CCT's mechanism for monitoring are in place in Northern Samar, though it's stupid extra work for the teachers and health workers who must record the conditions of the grantees with the conditionalities. The CCT's workers are the point leaders (also grantees, selected by their co-grantees) who each assist about two dozen families, and the municipal links, who are responsible for updating the records of 2,000 to 3,000 grantees apiece.

I ended by commenting on the common yet unfair allegation that CCT cash is only wasted on

Stench of a man

THE STENCH got my attention as I passed and lifted my head to gaze at the man seated across me. His dirty hands were clumsily handling the fish and spoon as he struggled to bring the food to his hungry mouth. Different thoughts crowded my mind as my eyes surveyed the food on our breakfast table, but the one that stuck out was this: This morning, the world has one less hungry stomach.

It's not unusual for me to have unexpected strangers join me in our meals. It may be a poor old man, a young orphan or a mentally challenged beggar. How many have opened their homes and shared their table with the less fortunate? I think that I can do more.

YOUNG BLOOD

Jheng Ruiz

We need to listen when the young are thinking aloud. What are their thoughts on current issues? My welcome contributors from the recent prizewriting and below.—Ed.

That morning the stench of the man was so strong that it brought back many memories. Of lazy Sunday afternoons spent moving to and from stores. Of the shiny tobacco left on our shoulder until time the poor little kids requested from dealers with hugs and kisses. Of the stinker and unlovable boss with the very deep lines that I had learned through time to be the unmistakable mark of poverty.

I began to think of the various programs to eradicate poverty initiated and carried out by different organizations. Hunger, malnutrition, disease, clothes, illiteracy and other poverty-related concerns are challenges that most development agencies seek to address. What are we doing to bring a brighter NGO experience for the children whose best priorities in poverty alleviation can be of help.

Still, questions remain. Should we rely solely on the efforts of these organizations to provide assistance to end up to the conditions of the less fortunate? Isn't it the responsibility of every individual?

It was not very long ago when my friends and I mentioned the idea of working with the poor, particularly by sharing our time and talents with the children of the concrete communities almost doubted for a blink future. We were compared to take the initiatives in trying to test the potentials and future of the less fortunate children. We started with the basics like talking and playing with them, making them realize that we believed they were worth spending time with. Storytelling sessions, tutorials, basic hygiene lessons were some of the activities we had. Birthdays parties received in as many toothbrushes, biscuit little treats, our modest time and did something to alleviate the condition of poor children.

In the process, we gained more than what we gave, as we gave them our time. They gave meaning to our lives, as we gave them a sense of family they provided us a sense of purpose. As our lord them physically, they led us spiritually by unbinding our capacity to love truly. As we taught them how to pray they taught us to see Jesus in them. When we shared with them the little that we had, they returned so much to us.

Our generation can do more than whine. It is by doing little things with good love that we find fulfillment. And from that sense of fulfillment springs the realization that each one has the power to contribute something to uplift the dignity of the poor. Beyond measuring their needs, we allow them to see themselves as God wants them to be. Sharing one's time is sharing one's life and when the poor see that, they begin to realize their worth. Hope comes in and they begin to dream again.

How can I forget the stench of that hungry man who shared breakfast with my family? I may not remember the perfume of a colleague with whom I had breakfast in a fancy restaurant, but I will always remember the smell of that man. For it awakened my compassion for the less privileged and aroused my hopes for the future.

* * *

Jheng Ruiz, 20, works in an IT firm in Ayala Ave.

Must we buy books we want to read?

"Life happened because I created the paper."
—Alfredo Marquez, "A History of Reading" (1996)

BAY AREA, San Francisco—If I cannot borrow an old book telling about public libraries in a developed country—the one I read today presented reasons better the life here—it is really to highlight the difference and make me appreciate what we do have right that each and every dream enjoys.

No, I do not have the illusion that American society is a cut-and-cured with a declining literacy rate and a fading interest in books. But in reference are constantly making more than we do. They read avidly in order to survive, to learn, to keep their bodies, even in the course of a morning walk—all of them keeping a look or even a Kindle in hand so that no time is ever wasted. I'd rather not walk, cannot to leave what they are reading. Most of them borrow papers from their public library, as the library center was primarily built for individuals. But, as many others are busy and their mobile phones.)

How could this habit have been acquired if these readers were not interested in their early years in schools and an effective public library system? No wonder American comic strip characters produce a big line about requiring a library card. A library card is indeed a good badge to own.

Marvin Antosh, a Chevron executive in Concord, recounts that as his school library in Quezon he would salivate before the locked bookcase of the complete set of heroes and gold gilded library (especially those with illustrations, considering he could not be allowed to borrow because he was not in grade school).

For recently, today's enlightened teachers know that when the inclination is there, parental learning there should be thrown out the window, basic the teaching moment is it comes free and he between.

COMMENTARY

Neni Sta. Romana Cruz

How library's curiosity be not being cleared He went on to become the very first student in his grade school to become a scholar in the Philippine Science High School where he thrived in being constantly challenged. Today in the book publisher that is the DLSU, he is a public library regular and order prints in having a library card.

Fellow reading advocate Rachel Isaiah Canlas is an extension of this contradiction: sir, a country where economy has yet to beat the quality of life and purchasing power, are the very country that has no purchase books that we need. Lastly, wonder find between the most basic needs and books, books are really planned to be last to be bought.

But let's not be perplexed or merely wring and ranting about the absence and the dismal state of existing public libraries in the country. Rather, we can feel challenged no [illegible], but I continue to patiently wait, as only reaction consistent with my views have come in.

And! One answer to the glimmer of hope. I stumbled on what appears to be quarter down from Mindanao: In 2009 the Davao City Public Library headed by Rizza Bolaños and been selected by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts as the most outstanding public library in the country. The library in downtown Davao promotes reading among the children in 14 villages through its mobile libraries. Other libraries in the down list were those in Baguio, Angeles, Zamboanga, Iloilo and Cebu.

There is a blog anonymously run by "Miss Davao Librarian, Region XI, Philippines." I'm impressed that she does not bother to identify herself except to say, "I am passionate about public and school libraries being accessible to every Filipino regardless of economic status or [illegible] of reader development, particularly for the traditionally marginalized Mindanaoans. I have good faith in the power of information to transform individuals and communities. I dream of the day when Mindanaoan children will be better able to access quality information and choose more and more by non information challenges." Shouldn't that be every librarian's credo?

What's even more heartwarming is that she actually enjoys reading—and how. Jessica Zafra's "Twisted" series among her favorites—and keeps abreast with what's current, what's popular and what might appeal to reluctant readers. For here you a tour of reading to train your phone number to be passed on if the librarian does not have it herself! The Mindanao Librarian wants to be trained and public by acknowledged.

Librarian Book Thrift Librarian this incredibly positive librarian, "Pambujangling Pahiyang ng Aklan sa Pamamagitan ng mga Aklat at Impormasyong Tukoodoloon at Komunikasyon." Could we just do as well with something catchy and memorable as these popular slogans "Mindanao ng Dabaw," "Yan Cagayan Kayaling," or "Ay Dec, ito Tiano, ang Book," in Filipino?

* * *

Isles Sta. Romana Cruz (sarnicruz@gmail.com) is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People, the Foundation for Worldwide Books Awards, and a trustee of the Ani Kalai Books Foundation.

Is K+12 the answer?

THE DEPARTMENT of Education has recently come out with a proposal known as K+12 which stands for Kindergarten plus 12 years. The purpose is to align the number of years we spend in basic education from the current 10 years to 12 which is the global norm. With kindergarten being made mandatory, the DepEd proposal effectively adds three more years rather than just two to our basic education cycle.

At present, the lack of resources in basic education is addressed by adding additional courses in college that were supposed to be taken up in basic education. I am certainly not an expert on this topic, but I do have my views which I would like to share and ask for comments.

I need not dwell too much on the importance of education. Education is the richest out of poverty and is key to the future of any nation. Thus, a primary and inherent obligation of the government is to provide education to its people.

Increasing the number of years devoted to basic education is not meant to be a magic wand that would address the major ills that afflict our education system.

One reason being put forward for aligning our years in basic education is that other countries would not be turning out college graduates because they lack two years of basic education. I personally do not subscribe to this argument because practically all of our professionals being hired abroad are not fresh graduates. Rather, these are professionals hosted by many years of work experience to their any deficiency that they might have had in basic education would have already been rectified. However, this deficiency in basic education is corrected by the additional subjects in college for this purpose.

Opponents also ask, are we going to be better off having to further take a year of [illegible] for? Is it really the number of years and not the quality that matters?

The proponents of K+12, of course, argue that the reason for the poor quality is that we are cramming too much into 10 years, such that the result is half-baked graduates. And that the quality issue can only be addressed if the number of years is increased to 12 (or 13, including the mandatory kindergarten). And the debate continues.

Whatever, I feel that before any proposal, the following questions should be addressed first:

▸ If the number of years is the main problem, how come the graduates of private schools, which are in the same 10-year program, are doing relatively much better than their public school counterparts?

▸ How can we have sufficient classrooms, desks, teachers and equipment for the three additional years when we already have shortages under the current 10-year basic education? How much will the program cost and can the country afford it?

▸ Would the parents who opt to send their children to private schools be able to absorb the added cost of three additional years in basic education?

Also, the following questions on the current state of basic education in the country today have not been addressed by the K+12 debate, should be answered:

▸ How should the government address the high (compared to our neighbors) number of students who drop out of school?

▸ How can we help inadequately equipped and trained to teach their assigned subjects? Are the teachers paid enough to make the profession attractive to the best and the brightest of our students? Do we have adequate programs in place to update the skills of our teachers?

▸ Should the focus on Filipino as a language be improved or increased? Should English be the primary medium of instruction after Grade 3 or 4?

▸ How should we integrate the roles of the DepEd, CHEd and TESDA?

▸ Should the start of the school calendar be moved to the beginning instead of June?

▸ Are our schools adequately equipped with computers, tools and other equipment needed to train basic technicians, mechanics and such?

▸ Are the special education funds collected as part of local property taxes properly spent for the intended purposes as mandated by law?

▸ Should we adopt a national student loan program?

The questions above are not all-inclusive and there are many issues that need to address. The point of this article really is that the government should conduct a thorough and comprehensive study of the current state of education in the country and craft a comprehensive education reform program of which the K+12 plan could be part of. Before we come up with a solution, we need to first understand fully what the problems are. And I believe we have not done this adequately yet.

While waiting for the results of the study, we cannot just stand still and watch the situation get worse. In the [illegible], I wish to commend the 1,000 workers program of the Philippine Business for Education (PBEd) scholarships to attend the best and the brightest of our students in the teaching profession. As we all know, teachers play the central role in producing the quality graduates that we need as a nation.

Bernie L. Bolongaita is a former chairman and treasurer of DepEd Textbook Adoption Committee and is the founder of the (incomprehensible) blogspot.com. Comments may be sent to bernie.bolongaita@yahoo.com.ph.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS

Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim

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ATTENTION: Classified Advertising

Justice for 'Charrise,' now!

LETTERS

FOR SEVERAL days, the news about 12-year-old "Charrise" who was trafficked and sexually abused allegedly by Jun Marcelino (Lumbalan) Illanze Jane Rodriguez, has been covered by media. The pimp, identified only as "Stella," and Illanze Rodriguez are facing charges, filed by the girl and her mother, for violation of the Anti Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9208) and Anti Child Abuse Act (RA 7610). Prior to the filing, parties/parts of The Bail 4HE a project of WeOpin addressing violence against women and trafficking, called me up to share the news about the rescue of Charrise. The Bail 4HE (Anti-Violence Project) is being implemented in Olongapo City and Angeles City and supported by the European Union.

The Olongapo participants have formed a group called SOMO MP Here to support Charrise and her mother who now fear for their lives.

We condemn the Jun Marcelino PNP for failing to act quickly and arrest Major Rodriguez. PNP personnel were informed of where they could find Charrise from the text house of the mayor where the crime happened.

We support the efforts of SOMO MP Now and the government of Olongapo City led by Gema Esteban, head of the local City Social Welfare and Development Office, to get justice for Charrise. We call on the governor of Zambales to ensure that Charrise and her family get all the necessary assistance and support to pursue the case against Mayor Rodriguez.

We call on the people of Zambales, particularly those of San Marcelino, to remain vigilant and ensure that the mayor who violated the children will be brought to justice. We aim to show the law, especially when the perpetrator is an elected official expected to ensure that human rights, especially women's rights, are protected and promoted.

Justice for Charrise! Justice for all victims of sex trafficking and violence!

—AIDA F. SANTOS-MARAÑON,
project manager, The Bail 4HE
aida.santos@worldvisionphils.org

Unfounded reports on OFWs funding ASG operations

THIS IS in reaction to the Aug. 3 report of the US State Department pointing to overseas Filipino workers as possible sources of funds used to bankroll the operations of the extremist Abu Sayyaf group (ASG). The report was released only last Nov. 17.

Citing news reports, the US State Department issued its Aug. 3 country report on terrorism stating, "The ASG is funded through acts of kidnap and extortion and may receive funding from external sources such as remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and possibly Middle East-based extremists."

This is quite alarming because such report is unfounded, unfair and irresponsible. Such sweeping accusation is unjust. OFWs are, in the first place, trained to accept jobs overseas due to the Philippine government's anti-labor policies, such as contractualization, union busting, meager wages, lack of benefits, or due to the unavailability of decent jobs for them in the Philippines.

Such baseless reports about our OFWs and their sources of funds pose a serious threat to OFWs—not only could they lose their jobs; their rights, wellbeing and safety are also put at risk. The report sends a wrong signal to their host governments, especially in the Middle East, which are supportive in their campaign operations as overseas workers are universal groups that are believed to have links to the ASG. Not so simple, the Saudi government has intensified its campaign against terrorist groups in the neighboring countries, which is near its border and where these terrorist groups are believed to have established strength.

OFWs and their families should be spared from the "war on terror" and they should not be a target of attack by either side.

We demand that the Aquino government question this baseless report linking OFWs to the ASG.

—JOHN LEONARD MONTEROLA,
Migrante-Middle East regional coordinator
migrantemec@gmail.com

Poor judgment in news reporting?

I WOULD like to express my great disappointment in the Inquirer's poor judgment in publishing the Nov. 22 front-page article headlined "Pope: condom OK in AIDS fight."

The title is quite misunderstood. I'm sad to say bad mainly because the incumbent is supposed to be a newspaper with integrity. Sometimes, "balanced news, fearless views"?

It was bad enough that the issues carried a news article from Reuters and the New York Times News Service (without shocking it) was balanced and accurate, but for the Inquirer to put in one vile on its front page, which does not have any basis even in that inaccurate article! The Inquirer just practiced, by juxtaposition, attention-grabbing tabloid-sensational news writing, apparently without much care for truth or, at least, consistency. Very poor judgment, I have to repeat.

No matter what the Inquirer's views are on condoms, it's supposed to serve the truth. The article's lifted deception paragraphs taken totally out of context from a much longer answer by the Pope to a question that refers to the Pope's trip to Africa in 2009 when, precisely, he stated that condoms are not the solution to AIDS.

Such irresponsible, sensational and reporting makes one think, what is the agenda behind this? The Inquirer, which is supposedly a good institution is a member of Catholics, is the serving the devil? With that article, the Inquirer editors have made the Inquirer as different from sensational news agencies that grab any chance to misfortune the Church's true things in this fine reporting? With this, the Inquirer has bashed on sensationalism. Is the Inquirer really going on the pain to raise its sales?

The least the Inquirer can do is publish the whole answer of the Pope from which these misinterpretations have been taken and let the readers judge for themselves. The Inquirer should help to avoid confusion, not create it. It should not twist the truth to suit its or particular persons' purposes.

—MENEI CARETAS,
Purok 8, Yelo, Calamba, Laguna

Our headline was based on the remarks of the Pope as reported by international news organizations with solid reputations. It is our duty to report the news as it is. On this matter of the Pope's remarks, the Inquirer has no hot premises any agenda.—Ed.

GSIS deaf to requests for two years

IN DECEMBER 2008, I filed with the Government Service Insurance System a request for a certification of full payment and annulment of land title to my first home Loan Account No. 6163000000. This was followed by another request for an updated Housing Disbursement of Account in October 2009.

I received a reply from Jane Joyce B. Dolojan of the GSIS' Internal Reconciliation Department.

To avoid any more problem, I again filed two follow-up requests dated May 28, 2010 and July 6, 2010. I sent e-mailed Dolojan, but it seems that all my requests fell on deaf ears.

December 2010 is just around the corner. I am praying and hoping that through the Inquirer, the people concerned in the GSIS will hear and answer my requests. Otherwise "Aandin pa ang aking huling pera ng ang kabaro (Where will I get the last of the home is dead.)?" May the true spirit of Christmas be in us all!

Any prompt action will be highly appreciated. I am ready to address with educators to exchange of real estate loans and can settle the matter.

—LEONIDAS R. CENTACTO,
supervising judicial staff officer,
Judicial Records Division,
Sandiganbayan,
Commonwealth Avenue cor.
Batasan Road, Quezon City

Best 'tourism slogan' contest

IN THE Inquirer's Nov. 18 issue, Gil Cabreragan and Jovaine Ang reported that "Tourism Secretary to boost tourism budget."

The slogan "Pilipinas Kay Ganda" launched by the Department of Tourism has been criticized as lackwood and pointless. Some members would like to retain the slogan "WOW Philippines" of the past tour administration.

To settle the controversy on the matter, I suggest that the DOT conduct a national "contest" for the best slogan to promote our tourist industry.

The winning entry will be given a substantial prize. The publication alone of the contest will be a unique boom for the promotion of Philippine tourism domestically and internationally.

The contest should be open to everybody. A panel of famous judges should be appointed to evaluate and adjudge the best slogan but our tourism including.

Secondly, I suggest "Tourismo, Paradiso Philippines"

—ERNESTO G. PEREA,
former BOI senior
industrialist,
Suite 1101, Shaplyn Tower,
556 Shaw Blvd.,
Mahindra, Ortigas, Manila

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OFWs warned vs fly-by-night insurance firms

Fire razes Mandaue City community, displaces 500

By Dionisio Magdilabot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—At least 500 people lost their homes in two fires in Mandaue City on Thursday.

The latest fire swept through Barangay Labogon past 10 p.m. Station at about noon, another fire destroyed a community in Barangay Alang-Alang.

Elpidario Cedilla Jr., fire investigator of the Mandaue City Fire Department, said the Labogon fire destroyed 20 houses and eight small establishments.

The fire started at 10, Pearl of the Orient, a bamboo furniture firm.

The fire quickly spread as most structures in the barangay were made of light materials.

Cedilla said the cause of fire could be a short circuit, though an investigation was still ongoing.

No one was hurt, but it took the firefighters at least an hour to put out the fire. A third alarm was raised, forcing firemen from Lapu-Lapu City and Mandaue City to proceed to the fire site.

Marlon Amel, of the information division of the Mandaue City Social Welfare Office, said the Labogon fire had displaced 30 families or more than 200 individuals.

He said the social welfare office had distributed food to the displaced residents.

A FIREFIGHTER helps put out the fire in Barangay Alang-Alang in Mandaue City that displaced more than 200 people. MARLON RAMOS/INQUIRER

SAGA CITY—The fate of 40,000 Filipino workers overseas now hinge on the implementation of a new law that would require government to ensure each worker leaving for jobs abroad has a valid insurance policy, an official of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration said.

But Jennifer Nalzaldo, in a statement, said while the amended Migrant Workers' Act was laudable in its intentions, several flaws remained in government's system that have been allowed to take part in the new law's insurance coverage provision.

Besides the new law, each worker leaving for jobs abroad must be covered by insurance with an initial premium of $75.

> The budget does not reflect the true budget for the legal assistance fund. There are other sources that accounted for ...

Bad drivers' case

In his statement, Nalzaldo said firms have been taking advantage of the insurance provision, particularly one that was involved in the deployment of 137 bus drivers to Dubai who ended up without work there.

He wanted against the entry of these firms into the insurance scheme for OFWs.

Turfler, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said there were enough funds for OFW protection, contrary to what critics of the 2011 budget are saying.

"The budget does not reflect the true budget for the legal assistance fund. There are other sources are accounted for," Abad said in a recent press conference at Villa Gozora Hotel here.

Abad said there was an adequate amount in the OFW legal assistance fund last year that could be used the next year.

Apart from the excess amounts, Abad said there are still other sources of funds for OFW legal assistance, such as P80 billion from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

"OFWs also have P34 billion to P36 billion in contributions, but many do not avail themselves anymore of their benefits when they come home," said Abad.

"I believe those idle funds should now be put in use for the OFWs. There's a lot of money around, it will even exceed the required P75.00 million legal assistance fund," he said.

The Department of Budget and Management has been criticized by some Filipino migrant groups and by House minority leader Edcel Lagman for cutting the budget of the legal assistance fund from P56 million this year to P37 million next year.

Criticisms

Lagman said that the DBM move is a violation of Republic Act No. 10022, or the Amended Migrant Workers' Act, which provides that P1.00 million be allocated for OFW legal assistance.

The Migrants Middle East, through their regional coordinators John Leonard Monterona, earlier criticized the DBM, saying Abad should "give to Caesar what is due to Caesar," quoting passages from the Bible.

"Specifically, the allocation from the contingent fund of the President was reduced from P50 million to barely P22 million," said Monterona.

"Where is the P30 million from the President's social fund? Obviously OFWs what is due to OFWs and their dependents," Monterona said. Paul John F. Barroso, Inquirer Southern Luzon

ARMM expands kid health program coverage

COTABATO CITY—The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has expanded its health package for malnourished children to now include older children, according to ARMM health officials.

Dr. Rudi Imaculada Jr., regional health secretary, said on Tuesday that the program "Expanded Supplemental Feeding" would now also benefit children up to 14 years old.

Previously, only children aged 6 and below were included in the program's list of beneficiaries.

Imaculada said with the program expanded, an estimated 350,000 infants and growing children up to 14 years old would be the direct recipients of a package of health services "geared to ward a much improved physical and mental growth."

Imaculada said the program is being supported by foreign donors such as United States Agency for International Development, World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund. Charlie C. Señora, Inquirer Mindanao

Pregnant woman stabbed 24 times, shot once, survives

From page A1

Her father, Raul Capistrano, described his eldest daughter as "malupig" (tardy) but strong, and said he was grateful that she and her child emerged alive from the ordeal.

At around 7 p.m. on Wednesday, PO2 Mario Natividad and PO1 Antonio Manipol picked up Capistrano, 23, from her home in Imgono, Silang. They showed her love scars and tied her hands behind her with duct tape.

She was repeatedly stabbed when she and her captors were on their way to Laguna, said Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz, police director of the province.

At Barangay Pinagsanjan in Pagsanjan, the cops pushed Capistrano out of the car and she rolled down a ravine off the road. They shot her in the leg and drove away, Cruz said.

Amazing strength

Senior Shalimar Pelayo, whose hut is about 50 meters from where the cops left Capistrano, said he was tearing for the battery from an TV when he heard gunfire.

"But I thought it was nothing. I just ignored it and went to sleep," Pelayo, 78, told the Inquirer.

Capistrano's knock awakened the farmer and his wife at around 4 a.m. on Thursday.

Pelayo said he found Capistrano on his doorstep with blood all over her.

He said she told him she had many wounds and asked to be taken to a hospital: "Tatang, dalhin nyo po ako sa ospital, marami po akong sugat."

The farmer said it took an hour before a jeepney passed and the driver agreed to help take Capistrano to the Pagsanjan public station in the town proper.

Pelayo said Capistrano never knew revealed up the bushy ravine thinking that the sound of dogs barking meant that there was a house nearby.

Amazed at how Capistrano survived, he said: "Dapat ang mas sa atong. Ma could still walk and talk (despite her wounds), and she was even pregnant. She just asked for three glasses of water," Pelayo said.

'Holiday'

Capistrano was a "witness" to the holiday robbery (robbery and extortion) of policemen in Sinai, according to Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr.

Manipol is based in the Cavite police station. Natividad was recently assigned to Sinai province from the regional police office.

Laguna police director Cruz quoted reports saying that Capistrano was "an informant of the holidays."

But he said he did not know the relationships between Capistrano on one hand and Manipol and Natividad on the other.

Said Capistrano was arrested to learn about his daughter's "job."

"I didn't know she was close to policemen. We rarely see each other, and I'm really not privy to her activities," he said.

The father apparently lived separately from the family and his eldest daughter grew up with her grandparents.

He said he had not met the man who had sired the baby in her womb, or even the father of her other child.

He described her as a valid one who often hangs out with her friends [gang], but to whom he had seen a brave streak: "Matigang yan pero nakitaan kong tapang."

Frustrated murder

Police officers Manipol and Natividad were asked to report to their superiors in Bicol on Thursday morning, meaning that they would be apprehended if he their fellow cops from Laguna.

"They really thought she was already dead," Cruz said of Capistrano.

Manipol and Natividad were charged with frustrated murder and illegal possession of firearms. Natividad was also charged with obstruction in Sinai.

The suspects are now detained at the Pagsanjan police station. Another suspect identified only as "Jhon" and described as a police "scalawag"—an original boy who also works and shoots—is still at large.

"SALIKSIK" SURVIVOR. Grace Capistrano recuperates from her stab and gunshot wounds at the Laguna provincial hospital in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, on Friday. She spearheaded the rescues of 3 Bicol cops. CHRISTINE

'Pacquiao effect' on Pinoys subject of study

From page A1

Filipinos worldwide rejoice every time Manny Pacquiao brings down an opponent, but can Pacquiao, who is also a politician, boost the Filipinos' sense of their national identity?

This was what Adrienne John Galang, a De La Salle University psychology professor, said he hopes to find out in a study he presented the other day at the 35th Sikolohiyang Pilipino (Philippine Psychology) conference at the University of the Philippines Baguio.

Galang said her cross-cross during Pacquiao's fights were some of the "anecdotal evidence" that the boxing champion influenced the national behavior.

"I wanted to find ways to evidence of a Pacquiao effect," Galang said.

Filipino or American?

In March, Galang gathered 18 of her students to test how strongly they see themselves as Filipinos. The test was done to those consecutive Mondays after Pacquiao's victory over Bhanakan Joshua Clottey on March 14.

Galang said he used the Brief Implicit Association Test (BIAT), which measures how a person associates words with concepts shaped by his or her experiences.

He required his students to sit in front of a computer monitor, where he flashed in sequence English words like "salt," "I," "me" and "mine."

Each time the words were flashed on the screen, Galang asked the students to describe whether each word was a Filipino or an American concept.

He then found that the impact of Pacquiao's fights on behavior would determine the speed by which the students responded.

Automatic response

"They responded faster and quickly associated the words 'salt,' 'I,' 'me' and 'mine' with 'Filipino.' This means that the students are close to the Filipino concept cognitively," he said.

Galang also said the tests indicated that the students responded much faster on the Monday that preceded Pacquiao's wins, compared to the tests he conducted two weeks after the fight.

"They reacted much faster right after Pacquiao's bout. It became automatic to them to say that they are Filipino," Galang said.

More studies needed

The best to determine the "Pacquiao effect" is still in its early stages, he said.

Galang said he conducted a new set of tests after Pacquiao's win over Mexican Antonio Margarito on Nov. 14. Its said 120 students were tested online.

He has not released the results of the latest test.

"This is just a glimpse. There may be or there may not be [a Pacquiao effect]. It is subject to further studies," Galang said.

A different study

In contrast to Galang's findings, another study presented at the forum indicated that the sense of being a Filipino waned after a tragedy has befallen the country.

Dina Mateya Gutierrez, a 20th Baguio professor, conducted this other test among 113 students two days after a downward policeman killed eight Hong Kong tourists during a hostage drama at Manila's Rizal Park on Aug. 23.

The respondents were asked how they ranked their "being Filipino" on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree) when faced with a statement like "I don't feel good about being Filipino."

The respondents mostly agreed with the statement "I don't feel good about being a Filipino," Gutierrez said.

INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Evelyn L. Benedicto

ONE of the children emphasizes the value of reading. Volunteer teachers from various elementary schools in Cebu were served as entertainers and facilitators for the Haus Kuhusan event. CRIS BORROMEO

A rare day of fun, good values for kids

By Cris Evert B. Lim
Cebu, Cebu

A 12-HOUR blackout swept Cebu that day, but it did not dim the spirit of Mary Joy Anoyo, 10, who moved about to learn about teamwork, patriotism and caring for the environment during the Cebu town's celebration of the Children's Festival.

"It was fun. It was really fun," the Grade 4 pupil of Mauli Elementary School in Barangay Mauli said in Cebuano. Her eyes beamed as she held course of Rocky Road to the right hand.

It was Mary Joy's first experience in a large community of children her age who played games. Around its eleven and marched songs and dance contests.

"I don't always come here (the town center) because my parents said we had to save money since there are seven of us in the family. I am happy that I now have five new friends. I just don't know the names of the other children, but we walked towards other [explored everything," she said.

The girl can hardly [illegible] her new friend, John Lloyd, who studies in Oslob Central Elementary School.

Mary Joy's father is a fisherman, while her mother is a homemaker.

Grassy children like Mary Joy the chance to experience a day of fun is one of the reasons the Dolores Aboitiz Children's Fund (DACF) of the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI) held the Children's Festival, Anabelle Fajardo, DACF deputy executive director, said.

Co-organized by the municipality, the event drew some 3000 children aged 9-12 years on Nov. 6 and another 200 aged 13-17 the next day.

"(Children's) participants are ... [chosen] to ensure a consistent organization of the event and monitor that children from deprived and far-flung communities are equally represented," Fajardo said.

'Our Cebu'

The Children's Festival was also held in Dipo and San Francisco towns on Camotes Island last month. Bacili town had its own festival on Nov. 13-14.

Bringing it to municipalities outside of Metro Cebu hopes to address the chance of the province's [illegible] about there to see similar event that offers the less fortunate children an opportunity to enjoy, learn and experience fully what it means to be a child," Fajardo said.

The towns were chosen for their child-care programs and participation in the organized "Green and Wholesome Environment that Nurtures Our Cebu," a joint program of RAFI and the provincial government to make Cebu a livable place, especially for children.

In 2007, the festival was launched in Cebu City with 400 children from 12 institutions. It was overwhelming response from various organizations.

In 2008, 920 children from 17 organizations joined, and last year, the number grew to 1,420. In July, 500 children from 28 institutions participated.

It was then that the organizers decided to bring the festival outside of Cebu City and the local government units (LGUs) were supportive applicants is, Fajardo said.

"Our goal is to remember the children not just on Children's Month, which is October. We encourage the LGUs to organize activities for the children the entire year," she said.

Good values

This year's theme revolved around instilling good values in young minds.

The children were treated to storytelling, singing, painting, role-playing and dancing in five stations—Haros Kahusan (virtues and heritage), Kahusan para sa Kalikasan (environment), Kahusan para sa Kalikasan sa Kinaiyan (integrated development), Kahusan para sa Bayan (leadership and citizenship) and Kahusan sa Kapuso (being good values education).

Highlighting the event was the Celebration of Talents, in which the children joined essay writing, poster making, singing and folk dancing contests.

Winning was not the goal, Fajardo said, but to "emphasize the importance of good values ... because this is crucial to the children."

The contest winners were given gift certificates and taken to a mall for a fun-filled day. The children were also given a brochure to budgeting their prize, said Fajardo.

Jessie Bacaguio, who teaches Grades 3 and 4 pupils at Canduloy Elementary School, said it is good to give lessons outside the classroom. He volunteered to facilitate in the Haros Kahusan station.

His school, located in a mountain barangay 29 kilometers from the main road highway, has 123 students and five teachers.

"My experience here will help me improve my teaching skills. This reminds me to practice spontaneity in my teaching and use my creativity to better engage the children," he said.

Bacaguio hoped to inspire the Jessie and hopefully to teach local to reach their dreams. He finished college with a scholarship grant from the state-run Cebu Normal University and the help of his family and who worked as laborers.

Across the NATION
Associate Editor Tony Bergonia

2,750 rural homes to get solar power

Gov't resorts to green energy for remote areas

By Cris Evert B. Luzo
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The push for green energy is producing results in the country's remotest villages.

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced that it would spend at least P92 million to provide 2,750 households in many of the country's remote villages and islands with electricity derived from the power of the sun.

Regional energy department officials said the money would be spent to install solar shop-related solar home systems in the households listed as beneficiaries of the government's Luzon grid electrification project.

The project seeks to bring electricity to every village in the country.

Project costs

Lourdes Arriaga, science research specialist of the DOE's Visayas Field Office, said the project would bring solar power to 782 households in Leyte, 370 households in the Visayas and 1,598 households in Mindanao.

The funds earmarked for the project, said Arriaga, would also be used for solar-the said were "normal preparations cost."

Those indirect farming assisted barangay power associations, or groups that would be in charge of maintaining the power systems and recruiting more users to generate enough revenue to keep the solar power going.

Arriaga said funds would be also used for other operating and maintenance costs.

The bidding process for the project has already started, said Arriaga.

In the Visayas, Arriaga said the project would be rolled out in Bohol, Northern Samar and Cebu.

Arriaga said the project would benefit households located in off-grid areas or areas not covered by electric distribution utilities and cooperatives.

Apart from being located in off-grid areas, she said the beneficiaries were chosen based on social acceptability and willingness to provide counterpart funding.

The solar home system that would be installed in each of the 2,750 households next year was the same system currently installed and used by 50 households in Barangay Alumar in Getafe, Bohol, according to Magdalena Barley Jr., senior science research specialist of the DOE Visayas Field Office.

P200 a month

The Barangay Alumar project cost P500,000. It was completed in 2008. ICE extended a financial assistance of P275,000 and counterpart funds were provided by the DOE, the local government and P1,500 in one-time fee from the 50 households.

"Solar power is energy efficient and environmentally friendly. What is important is that power generation should be more than what you consume," Barley said.

In Bohol, each household has a monthly contribution of P200 to maintain the solar power system.

The energy department said 97.1 percent of the country's 44,000 barangays have been electrified.

DELIGHT

Benguet children reach out to touch pigs that were kept in a pen during the province's celebration of Ador, a feast of unity among Igorots in the province. CHRISTIANE LIM/INQUIRER VISAYAS

3 OFWs dead in Dubai fire brought home to Pangasinan

ASINGAN, Pangasinan—The bodies of three overseas Filipino workers who died in a Nov. 6 fire in Dubai arrived in Pangasinan on Friday.

The coffins bearing the remains of Kristeen Anguon, 31, Reynaldo Lucas, 29, and Ariel Soberano, 28, were met by Board Member Junjie Dashiell Aspiras Mayor Heidi Chan and the victims' relatives at the Sinne Aquino International Airport on Thursday night.

The relatives said the arrival of the remains was delayed because they did not have money and the processing of documents took time. Dashiell and Chan are among the officials who helped in the return of the bodies to their hometowns in Asingan and Villasis.

Living, dying together

The victims, being close relatives, chose to live in one house to reduce expenses as they worked in restaurants and shops in Dubai. The fire, according to reports received by the victims' relatives, may have been sparked by faulty wiring and caught the victims' rented house while they were sleeping on Nov. 6.

"Maraka can't express the pain that we feel, but we're also happy that we got them back here," said Rogelio Wabe, 32, Sagun's husband.

On the day of the fire, Wabe was expecting a call from Sagun because she was scheduled to return to the Philippines on Nov. 7 after two years of working in Dubai as a sales clerk.

Wabe said it was Josephine Jacob, a housemate of the victims, who called him to report his wife's death. He said Sagun left Villasis as they could raise their five-year-old daughter.

Town in mourning

"She wanted to provide for our daughter's needs and that's her to a good school," Wabe said.

In this town, relatives of Lucas and Soberano mourned their deaths.

"I wish she just worked here instead of leaving for Dubai," said Fibra Jacob, 25, niece of Lucas and cousin of Soberano.

Lucas, who worked as a waitress in Dubai, left a five-year-old son who is in the care of Jacob. Lucas's husband died four years ago.

Jacob said Lucas left for Dubai a year ago while Soberano, also a waiter. Though a bachelor and without children, Soberano's death was deeply felt by his family.

"They left to give their families a better life, so it is so sad that they returned this way," said Jacob. —Johanna Morden, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Tarlac, Zambales governors seek Noy help for road

CLOVERLEAF CITY—A road linking Zambales and Tarlac may be the key to opening up those provinces to further economic development, local officials said.

Zambales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said he and Tarlac Gov. Victor Yap on Wednesday agreed with President Aquino to prioritize the highway project to usher in development in the two neighboring provinces, as well as in Central Luzon.

In a statement, Ebdane, whose public works secretary said the project had been considered as early as 1961, during the time of the American colonial government.

He said Mt. Aquino's hillset, the main Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. who served as Tarlac governor, wanted a similar project in 1963.

But the project failed to take off and was sidelined due to the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991.

Ebdane said the government recently allocated P58 million to complete the road that would cut through the Zambales mountain range, after the Department of Public Works and Highways spent some P15 million last year to clear portions of the jungle for the highway.

"The project would push through finally [once the funds are released]," he said.

Ebdane said he and Yap had pressed our concerns on the road alignment after an aerial inspection of the project area on Wednesday.

"We agreed that both the Sta Ine and Zambales segments would meet at the Camp O'Donnell area and then connect to the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX)," Ebdane later told officials of Pulilang town.

"This way, we could prevent unnecessary cost while maximizing accessibility," he said. —Robert Sonnagat, Inquirer Central Luzon

Cops to use 'all resources' vs spate of Bacolod abductions

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Police vowed to use "all available resources" in bringing down a crime group behind a string of abductions in the city that has raised alarm among authorities and businessmen.

The most prominent abduction was that of a Chinese-Filipino businessman who was forcibly taken by gunmen after he withdrew money from an ATM on Wednesday.

Businessman Jesus Khu was released, but was beaten up before an undetermined amount of cash was taken from him.

The gunmen left Khu in a hotel where police found him with bruises. He was taken to a hospital.

On Sunday, police said a nine-year-old boy was abducted but was set free after the abductors realized they got the wrong target.

A different boy, son of a wealthy resident of the city whose police were's identity, was the real target of the abductors, according to investigators.

On Tuesday, an attempt to abduct a female call center agent was foiled by an alert watchman.

The series of abductions prompted authorities to create an intelligence task force and increase police visibility.

Chief Supt. Ciprianc Querol Jr., Western Visayas regional police director, said "there is no place in Bacolod for people like these."

"We will employ all our resources to go against these criminals," he said.

Jude Thaddeus Sayson, acting Bacolod mayor, on Wednesday said the cases were isolated incidents that shouldn't worry residents.

Troops remove ash in school buildings

LEGAZPI CITY—Government soldiers were deployed to public schools in two Bicolano towns to help clean them up following a series of explosions by Mt. Bulusan that sent tons of ash falling on the town's villages.

Lt. Col. Santiago Ingleza, commanding officer of the 49th Infantry Battalion, said he sent a 35-man disaster response operations platoon, along with six other platoons, from his unit to clean school facilities that had been covered in ash.

"There is a possibility that the roof will collapse if these (ashes) are not immediately removed," he said.

At around 9 a.m., the soldiers were cleaning six classrooms at Patag Ibaba Elementary School in Juban, whose school grounds were covered by mud and ash, barring school authorities to resume the school.

Alicia Avila, head of Legco Elementary School in the same town, said the Department of Education reserved to relieve students from Patag Ibaba Elementary School with students in his school to avoid disruption of classes.

At noon of the same day, the soldiers escaped at Gorayan Elementary School in Irosin to clean 16 school buildings there.

Climbing rooftops, the soldiers scraped ash that had hardened and got stuck in the galvanized iron roofing of the school buildings.

At least 97 families concentrated in sitio at Gallanosa National High School in Barangay Imo Pedro which has been serving as an evacuation center for people driven out of their homes by Bulusan's unrest in Irosin.

A communal septic tank was being constructed at the school since the biggest number of evacuees were housed.

Eduardo Laguerta, resident volcanologist, said cold and clear environment today, such as what happened on Thursday in Barangay Cogon in Irosin, should be appreciated as they were shorter than those hours and were able to wash down lahar and debris from recent ash explosions.

However, residents, especially those near the dams, "should brace for possible sure backing of lahar from the silted dams should heavy rains pour for three hours or continuously longer than that," said Laguerta.

A bulletin from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology showed a lull in Bulusan's activities with only a three volcanic quakes recorded on Friday after the ash explosion reported on Wednesday afternoon.

Alan Jared Layosland, resident volcanologist at the Mayon Volcano Observatory in Albay province, said the ash explosion on Wednesday was the biggest since Bulusan's unrest started on Sept. 10.

FIREMEN and soldiers help remove ash on the rooftop of a house in Irosin town in Sorsogon. CHRISTIANE LIM/INQUIRER VISAYAS

A silver in ...

MEDAL STANDINGS, WITH GAMES HOSTS, GUANGZHOU, CHINA

Country	G	S	B	T
[illegible]	14	8	1	23
[illegible]	13	7	5	25
[illegible]	11	6	4	21
[illegible]	10	6	4	20
[illegible]	10	5	4	19
[illegible]	9	5	3	17
[illegible]	9	4	3	16
[illegible]	8	4	3	15
[illegible]	8	4	2	14
[illegible]	8	3	2	13

Country	G	S	B	T
[illegible]	5	5	2	12
[illegible]	5	4	3	12
[illegible]	5	4	2	11
[illegible]	5	3	3	11
[illegible]	5	3	2	10
[illegible]	5	2	3	10
[illegible]	5	2	2	9
[illegible]	5	2	1	8
[illegible]	5	1	2	8
[illegible]	5	1	1	7

Bronze from A10

of a run back-to-back rout against India.

Grandmaster Si Jhan spearheaded the Olympian juggernaut, whipping Filipino chess icon GM Eugene Torre, GM Zhou Jianchao turned back GM Darwin Laylo while GM Wang Hao subdued GM John Paul Gomez as the Philippines played minus GM Joey Antonio, who had to fly back home for medical reasons.

"We claimed that he fell sick," Gomez said. "He said he had a headache and he left a note for us this morning, which shocked us. This changed everything and affected our performance."

Dr. Alexander Pineda, head of the Philippine medical team, said Antonio needed emergency procedure behind his right ear to quell his constant headaches.

Teenage sensation GM Wesley So scored the Philippines' lone a shutout by downing GM Wang Yue.

"The match against the Philippines and India were dangerous," said Wang Yue through an interpreter. "[We won,] because of our hard work over daily training."

The Philippine line notched its fourth silver medal to go with three golds and nine bronzes for 16th place among 45 countries.

China piled the feature with 196 gold medals, its highest total in an Asiad—in a dominating feat just five years removed from ruling the Olympics for the first time in fading two years ago.

The hosts also piled up 104 silver medals and 87 bronzes to underscore its unchallenged romp with still a day to go and more events being staged Friday night.

China was playing South Korea in the football finals after the Philippines, once the sport's acknowledged powers, ended up a distant nine-goal drubbing, 0-9, in 1966, also shootings at 0-17 years Qatar.

In the race among Southeast Asian nations, Thailand ruled the roost with 19 gold medals, eight silvers and 32 bronzes with the final boxing bouts still ongoing. Malaysia was a close second at 9-10-13 while Indonesia was third at 6-9-11. Singapore tallied a 4-7-6 record.

The brand Silas Filipino five fell prey to a 18-3 Qatar run—at the start of the fourth quarter—to fall to a team it crushed in the preliminary round.

"Our defense was the biggest problem," said coach Eugene Torreano after the match. "Yeah, [since it never a good result for us."

Target Ngamelvic led Qatar with 25 points and 12 rebounds while Baker Mohammed added 19 and 8 boards.

Kelly Williams led the Philippines with 16 points while Art Teodoro added 13 and 10 rebounds. Jeby Ganio chipped in 10 points and eight assists but Sunat Gilas, which was held to just seven points in eleven quarters.

They were good medal chances for Filipino players. They had big guns, said Ganio. "They got stuck on breaks and we didn't execute well."

Sheila Mae Penn gave a good account of herself in the women's 2m springboard final, finishing fifth in an event where China took 1-2 spots. Penn scored 272.40 to fitting for highest among Southeast Asian rivals.

Penn had little experience coming into the Games but got some valuable last three months.

Danilo Fernandez, meanwhile, missed up fifth in the men's pole vault.

Fernandez bested the spot to 70.30m, nearly 12 centers short of the effort of winner Yukiko Ishikawa of Japan (81.15m).

Meanwhile, the gold-to-be sibling tandem of Mark Javier and Joebert Jual light flyweight Vic Saludar said they will spend some time in Manila before heading home to Isabela to celebrate their victory.

"It'll have a Christmas party with the [national boxing association] first," said Bro. Saludar, who won the three-fight gold with a 13-11 victory over Chinese pug Qiang Yang.

Saludar said he'll use the cheer his house with younger brother Vic. The older Saludar earned a hefty P3 million incentive for his golden feat.

Boxing association executive director Ed Picson praised the Saludar's achievement and that of silver medalist Jamie Alberan in the women's flyweight class, saying it is proof that they are on the right track as far as its preparation for the London Olympics is concerned.

Alberan, who lost to Ishpeki 5-7 decision to Chinese foe and police officer by day Hsu Liao-ou, will go home with P1 million.

The Games come to a graceful close Saturday but not before the Philippines sends its last athlete, Eduardo Buenaventura, to compete in the men's marathon at noon.

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PH chessers fail to topple 'Great Wall'

GUANGZHOU—Even Grandmaster Wesley So would not get past this "Great Wall" of China.

So settled for a draw with the highest rated GM Wang Yue in 37 moves of the Hexad's defense and the Philippines failed to last grab hope for a gold medal with a stunning 0.5-3.5 setback to host China in the conclusion of the 16th Asian Games chess competition here Friday.

The 17-year old Filipino chessog (Elo: 2666), who played solid, but failed to capitalize on a win against his Chinese opponent (Elo: 2758) but had to settle for half a point after a repetition of moves.

The beginning of the end for the Filipinos came when GM Darwin Laylo, booted to GM Zhou Jianchao in 40 moves of the King's Indian, leaving the horrendous task of saving the day to GMs John Paul Gomez and Eugene Torre.

But facing decisive situations, Gomez and Torre also fell like dominoes against their higher rated Chinese rivals.

Gomez succumbed to GM Wang Hao in 54 moves of the Slav defense and Torre fell to GM Xu Yuhua in 38 moves of the King's Knight opening.

POC: 'Lean but mean' is way to go

By Francis TJ. Ochoa

GUANGZHOU—The quest to improve on the Doha Asian Games medal haul is over.

But Team Philippines refuses to judge down 10th finish (same by the medal tally), and that of relinquishing forty Sentosans said he'd go back to the drawing board to see what can be picked up by the country's participation here.

Pressed on future heroes, Lasas has mentioned the way to go.

"The first thing is to reach out where we did a simple assessment who that we originally intended to send only 120 athletes here," said Monasterio. "All our ambition this year came from that list of 126."

Monasterio's assessment came from before two of the country's hopes fought in the finals of their respective divisions. Boy Saludar won gold, Jamie Alberan settled for the silver.

The country netted four golds, six silvers and nine bronzes in the Doha Asiad.

"Because of justification of much by some national sports associations, we decided to add to that list," Monasterio added. "Now, I hope we've achieved [more]."

Monasterio said there's no reason to steal [celebrate] if only can't be the fastest to win.

"Why should we steal [celebrate] who we have vanquished?" Monasterio said.

Qatar dumps PH five to 6th place in Asiad again

By Jose Marasigan

GUANGZHOU—Smart Gilas Pilipinas forgot how to dream in the last quarter yesterday and doomed the country to a worst-ever sixth place again in men's basketball at the Asian Games.

Still leading 64-64 with the Filipinos hit only one-of-10 field goal attempts in the final 12 minutes, allowing Qatar to salvage an 81-77 win in the battle for fifth place in the 16th edition of the event at the Tianhe Dong Gymnasium.

"We struggled in shooting like we did against South Korea," said HP coach Rajko Toroman. "This (Qatar) also used the pace to their advantage and it took out our rhythm."

The Filipinos also finish...

...after moving last to the Asian championships in 2007 and a third-even ranks in the 2009 Beijing Olympics.

Smart Gilas, beaten by South Korea in the semifinals, avoided what could have been its poorest finish in the country's showcase sport by whipping South Korea, 98-89, Tuesday.

A Mac Belmonte triple from the side gave the Filipinos the lead for the last time at 67-66, but that proved to be their last field goal for the night.

Smart Gilas was still in the game at 67-71 when Marvin Lassiter committed an unsportsmanlike foul on a forthcoming Taiyan Nguembo, who sank both...

...free throws, plus Qatar's ball possession.

The Filipinos dribbled the Qatari, 90-68, in the closing seconds.

Alnasrallah, have delivered Aguna, 75-66, to clinch the bronze medal.

The gold-medal match between China and South Korea will being played at 2pm time.

The scores

QUARTER #1—Agustin 15, Belmonte 10, Reid 11, Asasi 7, Cruz 7, Ildefonso 2, Yap 2, Sangalang 2, Tolentino 2, Lao 0, Torres 0, Ferrer 0, Mendoza 0, Sumbo 0. TOTAL 64

QUARTER #2—Reid 24, Sumbo 17, Asasi 15, Ildefonso 11, Cruz 9, Belmonte 5, Yap 3, Agustin 2, Lao 0, Torres 0, Ferrer 0, Mendoza 0, Sumbo 0. TOTAL 64

QUARTER #3—Reid 27, Asasi 16, Sumbo 15, Ildefonso 11, Cruz 9, Belmonte 5, Yap 3, Agustin 2, Lao 0, Torres 0, Ferrer 0, Mendoza 0, Sumbo 0. TOTAL 64

QUARTER #4—Reid 27, Asasi 16, Sumbo 15, Ildefonso 11, Cruz 9, Belmonte 5, Yap 3, Agustin 2, Lao 0, Torres 0, Ferrer 0, Mendoza 0, Sumbo 0. TOTAL 64

Fourth seed ends Rudas q'final bid

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANILA, PHILIPPINES—Failed to get past her fourth-seeded foe from Liechtenstein in girls' singles event as Asian Games Freestyle and Tamaho Nguyen advanced in the doubles with separate partners to the quarterfinals of Primus Interscholastic Games at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center in Manila.

Rudas was...

...judges of the 16-year-old Rudas, 6-2, 6-1, and managed a semifinal duel with Australian Dianne Kesevich, who ousted Thai Nitchaphat Bhumkar, 6-2, 6-2.

Second seed Qin Siya of China also marched to the semifinals with a hard-earned 6-4, 6-7 (1), 6-4 triumph over Taiwanese Hongying of Thailand.

The Chinese will face Indonesian Adella Indradi, who stopped Belarus' Darya Gavrilenko, 6-1, 6-0.

Fourth seed, the singles top seed who bowed out in the second round, teamed up with Thailand to down Australia's Kayden Gilchrist and Indonesia's Dini Rosma, 6-4, 6-3.

Ranked No. 3, the Hermosa-Tanguyo pair advanced against top seeds Ekaterina Bykova of Russia and Kumi Oki of Japan, who ousted Qin and Filipino partner Mailo Jan Tanguyo, 6-2, 1-0 (11-9).

Tanguyo and Kesevich also progressed with a 6-7, 6-1 (10-6) victory over Rudas and Marion Inki Gajardo.

Meeting for Nguyen and Kesevich are Thailand Nitchaphat and Varunya Wongteenchai, who handled out the second-seed tandem of Nabilah and Nur Indrawati, 3-6, 6-3 (10-7).

Hawks, Clippers prevail

THE ATLANTA Hawks rallied to a 116-108 victory over the Washington Wizards on Thursday to snap a three-game losing streak in the Los Angeles Clippers posted a 100-92 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

Reuters

ALMARO Bell: Mark Isip and Bryan Viray double team Aaron Aloc of Tab '74 Thai during last night's game. MANUEL BALCE CENIZA

Texters repulse Barako Bull five

San Miguel secures q'final bonus

By Marang B. Castillo

TAB '74 Thai struggled against lowly Barako Bull yet again, unveiling a big midgame splurge to pull off a 106-102 victory and gain a tie for second place in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations record at the Araneta Coliseum.

Jimmy Alapag, the smallest player in the valiant Lodge Tab '74 Thai lineup, cast aside Dyan Ravena down the stretch and finished with 31 points that were with 4 Cocoon.

Tab '74 Thai rose to 7-3 and pulled level with the Barangay Ginebra as the race for the last semis-to-best spot in the quarterfinals intensified between the two latest rivals.

Powerhouse San Miguel then claimed the first slot later in the night after thrashing away in the fourth period for a 96-89 victory over the 20.

The first team, who banked a career-high 31 points from Arizl rookie Rabih Al-Hamoud, improved to 10-2 overall and entered at least a tie for one of the two slots even if they drop their last two outings.

Alapag scored six of the Texters' final nine points and had a hand in the other three as they completed a sweep of the Barangay Ginebra in the eliminations.

Meanwhile, referees Art Herrera and Romeo Mendoza were both suspended for seven to 10 days for their failure to spot two glaring fouls in the endgame of the Tab '74 Thai-Air Phoenix match last Wednesday.

The scores

QUARTER #1—Alapag 31, Ravena 17, Dillinger 11, Lanby 10, Pascual 10, Cruz 9, Reyes 8, Lastimosa 7, Ildefonso 5, Sumbo 0, Ferrer 0, Mendoza 0, Sumbo 0. TOTAL 106

QUARTER #2—Alapag 31, Ravena 17, Dillinger 11, Lanby 10, Pascual 10, Cruz 9, Reyes 8, Lastimosa 7, Ildefonso 5, Sumbo 0, Ferrer 0, Mendoza 0, Sumbo 0. TOTAL 106

QUARTER #3—Alapag 31, Ravena 17, Dillinger 11, Lanby 10, Pascual 10, Cruz 9, Reyes 8, Lastimosa 7, Ildefonso 5, Sumbo 0, Ferrer 0, Mendoza 0, Sumbo 0. TOTAL 106

QUARTER #4—Alapag 31, Ravena 17, Dillinger 11, Lanby 10, Pascual 10, Cruz 9, Reyes 8, Lastimosa 7, Ildefonso 5, Sumbo 0, Ferrer 0, Mendoza 0, Sumbo 0. TOTAL 106

Bayron rules Cangolf Invt'l by 4, tops OOM

By Marang B. Castillo

CAGBALIGAO—*Six* seven under all day Jay Bayron overhauled a two-stroke deficit in the three-man and won the ICTSI Cagbaligao Invitational by four strokes yesterday while a 2-under-par 70 at the tree-lined North course here.

After an opening bogey that pulled him three shots behind overnight leader Antonio Antolin II, Bayron pulled up three shots in his final five holes on the front nine, including back-to-back birdies from No. 8 to complement...

...rally that gave him a second win this season.

With rounds of 68 and 70, Bayron tallied a six-under 210 to edge Robert Terry Asaco Jr. despite...

...against resume he used to add homes, rounding the 18th hole top spot and clinching a third career victory, counting other Team Hilltop last year and the Cebu stop last August.

Benjie Magada, the rowdy veteran who wrapped a long winless spell at the Orchard a few months ago, finished second with a three-over 69 as Antolin shot himself in the foot with a closing 77 marred by a flash-nine 41.

"I knew I was just having fun and I was able to play the way I did in the final round," Bayron told the Sentinel in Filipino after a 34-36 card that had five birdies against three bogeys.

The win earned Bayron a P50,000 bonus as he finished the Cedes of Hope title...

...Avon Pagsanjan, the defending champion and erstwhile OOM leader finished seven shots behind after a second straight 71.

Antonio Dhanielan Reid a 71 and shared third at 215 with Antolin, who still notched his finest performance as a rookie pro.

Carl Santos-Ocampo won the low amateur cup with a 71 for 216, good for 8th overall.

The final round scores

Jay Bayron (68-70) 210—E, Magada 71-69) 211—E, Antonio I (69-71) 215—E, Asaco Jr. (70-71) 215—E, Reid (71-71) 215—E, Antolin II (68-77) 215—E, Santos-Ocampo (71-71) 216—E, Lascano (71-71) 216—E, Ramos (71-71) 216—E, Ramos (71-71) 216—E, Ramos

Pucay, Que, Rosales go under halfway cut

KHON KAEN, THAILAND—Mark Pucay, Angelo Que and Daniel Rosales made it to the weekend duty of the King's Cup at the Singha Pink Khon Kaen Golf Club. Pucay shot a 1-under par 71 for a 36-hole 142 to tie for 66th. Que (73) and Rosales (74) advanced by matching the cut line at 147. Australian Tony Carolan and Thailand Pond Meesomsin shared the way at 9-under 133.

—MORE SPORTS NEWS, Page B2

SPORTS
Editor Rodolfo S. Mañalac
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

FILIPINO boxer Roy Salcedor (left) celebrates after beating Chang Yong of China, 13-11, in the men's bantam (52 kg) gold-medal bout at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou. —AFP

A silver in chess without Antonio

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

GUANGZHOU—The country's chess squad—stripped by its second best player at the last minute—settled for the medal it had been assured of after losing to host China on Friday in the 16th Asian Games at the Guangzhou Chess Institute here.

The powerful Chinese hammered out a 3.5-0.5 victory to take the gold medal, adding to the haul of championships the host country has collected in this quadrennial meet by handing a Philippine side that was riding the crest

a surprise w

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Bleak Yule for condo tenants

By Tina G. Santos

THEY won't be home for Christmas.

Residents of West Tower condominium in Fontenge Knoghtel in Makati City are not likely to get their wish of spending Christmas in their homes.

"It's not likely to happen," said Shawn Jeremiah Erwin Rimes Jr., adding that the cleanup of the area affected by the oil leak earlier treated to the Lopez-owned First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC) pipeline along Ortigas Highway—and which found its way into the basement of the condominium—would take more time.

Long wait

"I was told by one consultant that it will take months, maybe even years, before the total clean-up process is over. What we are doing now is to make conditions a lot better for the affected community" he told reporters after a dialogue with barangay officials.

Tenants evacuated

The city government shut the building down in July and ordered the evacuation of the tenants after a mixture of water and oil had accumulated in the basement, prompting fire officials to declare the establishment a "ticking time bomb."

About 40 to 50 families and a number of businesses with offices in the condominium were affected by the oil leak.

Some of the tenant owners were expecting to be back home this Christmas.

Not safe

"We would really like them to be home for Christmas, but it's still not safe for them to do so," Rimes said.

Manuel Chuanzon, a West Tower resident, earlier said that while they really would like to be home for the holidays and be able to resume their interrupted lives, the health and safety of his family were still his top concerns.

Fireworkers ban

Meanwhile, Rimes said he was still waiting for the City Council to approve a pending resolution banning the sale and use of firecrackers this holiday season to ensure the safety of the area.

"We are just trying to lessen the hazards and exposure to danger in the area," the mayor said.

The ban applies not only to Brgy. Bel-Air but also to nearby Barangay Pio del Pilar and some parts of Magallanes Village.

Rimes said that the situation in the barangay had become a cause for alarm since firecrackers used for the holidays could trigger a huge explosion.

Signs of leak

Experts noted that the petroleum constituents in leak inside the basement of the condominium, even with the completion of repairs on the FPIC pipeline.

The mayor, however, assured residents that the Makati Fire Department and Emergency Rescue Senior are standing by to attend to any emergency.

Ex-barangay officers charged with funds misuse

METROBRIEFS

NBI nabs suspected opium pusher

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents arrested an Iranian who owns a restaurant chain in Metro Manila for allegedly selling and keeping more than P100,000 worth of opium and its grams of in his house. At a press conference yesterday, NBI Deputy Director for Intelligence Service and lawyer Ruel Lasala identified the suspect as Leonyaramohsak Bamshian, 51, owner of Nando Dasi Persian Kebab Restaurants. Lasala said Bamshian was arrested in a raid on his home on May 28, by virtue of a search warrant issued by Manila Executive Judge Amor Reyes. Teams of the NBI Headhun. Arrest and Intelligence Division (TRACI) conducted from the suspect's house and seized 16 grams of in his house. At a press conference yesterday, NBI Deputy Director for Intelligence Service and lawyer Ruel Lasala identified the suspect as Leonyaramohsak Bamshian, 51, owner of Nando Dasi Persian Kebab Restaurants. Lasala said Bamshian was arrested in a raid on his home on May 28, by virtue of a search warrant issued by Manila Executive Judge Amor Reyes. Teams of the NBI Headhun. Arrest and Intelligence Division (TRACI) conducted from the suspect's house and seized 16 grams of in his house. At a NARCO direct flores, Jonathan Galicia said Bamshian was arrested after an formation was relayed to his office by a tipster who claimed Bamshian was the source of opium sold in Manila. Galicia said his unit conducted a month-long surveillance on the restaurant owner before they conducted the operation. Bamshian denied involvement in the trafficking of opium, claiming that his was framed by a transient he had asked him to store the illegal drugs in his house. **Jeannette I. Andrade**

Explosive devices found in QC

A GRENADE was found planted in between the iron railings of the gate of a three-story house in Barangay San Antonio, Quezon City, yesterday morning. Supt. Arnulfo Franco, head of the Quezon City Police District explosives and ordinance division, said two rocket propelled rounds were also found in Bataan Hills, also containing remaining the Arnulfo Antonio police that danger posed by the discovery of the two explosives. "These explosives are no longer capable of exploding, so there's no cause of alarm," Arnulfo said because in a telephone interview. He said they have no leads on who put the grenade found on the gate of a house on Dr. Jesus Flores in Barangay San Antonio. He added that the grenade's firing pin had already been detached when it was found by barangay volunteers who were occupied at the scene. According to Arnulfo, the grenade, commonly known as a "pineapple" grenade because of its shape, was used by American soldiers during World War II. The rocket rounds, on the other hand, were found over to the police by the owner of a palmhouse in Bataan Hills. The old explosive devices were found among scraps of metal and iron scattle the workshop by scavengers. **Nancy C. Carvajal**

Tribute for slain Calaocan principal

THE DEPARTMENT of Education on Friday condoled with the family of Dr. Reynaldo Yamsuan, the Caloocan school principal who was killed by unknown assailants on Wednesday, and called on the authorities to remain steely identify and arrest the attackers. Yamsuan, principal of Bagong Silang High School in Caloocan City was driving his car on his way to his house in Meycauayan, Bulacan province when gunmen shot him almost six times. Education Secretary Jesmin Lorenzo paid tribute to Yamsuan, saying he was a "great man" in Capitol and the teaching profession in the country and that he would be "sorely missed." Police investigators said the victim's car, laptop, and cash in his pocket amounting to P11,000, were left untouched. This was the second time a Caloocan educator has been killed this year. Last September, Teodora Suarez, a teacher at the Manuel Luis High School in Tala, Caloocan City, was stabbed dead by her 13-year-old student after scolding him for upsetting long hair. **Mike Gallego**

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A FORMER Quezon City barangay chief and his treasurer were charged with malversation of funds in the City Prosecutor's office, court records showed.

Assistant City Prosecutor Juliette Valdez in a resolution recommended probable cause to indict Andrew Abando, the barangay chief, and Abdi Serrano, of Barangay Mariblo in Project 4, Quezon City, for allegedly tapping barangay funds for their personal use.

No explanation

"Respondents themselves could not explain where was the barangay Funds amounting to P5,482,433.75. They could not produce any supporting documents for these disbursements," Valdez in his resolution.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by Raul Adolfo and Rhea Abad, incoming and outgoing chair of the barangay.

Discovery

The fraud was discovered after an audit conducted on barangay funds by Rolando Romero, barangay services chief of the District-City Accounting Division, the prosecutor said.

During the audit, Romero found out that the respondents had encashed checks worth a total of P5,482,433.75 at the Land Bank of the Philippines from 2003 to 2006.

Complainants Adolfo and Abad filed the case against the pair after the City Treasurer's Office withheld the release of more than P3 million in barangay funds because of "the alleged irregularities during Abando's administration."

Adolfo and Abad said an investigation showed that money from barangay funds were deposited in Abando's personal account.

Expenses

They also alleged that Abando bought air-conditioning units for the barangay at P130,000 or double the estimated price, and that the respondents had paid utility bills for his house with money taken from barangay funds.

Abando, however, denied the allegations and pointed to Serrano as the lone culprit.

He said because, who had custody of all pertinent documents of the barangay including the checks, had forged his signature.

Following orders

In her defense however, Serrano blamed Abando and said she only followed the former chief's order.

Besides also accused Abando of "diverting her eyes to take the fall for the misappropriation."

The case has been raffled to QC Regional Trial Court Branch 86 Judge Lyzette Cortes.

A bail of P40,000 had been recommended for the pair's temporary liberty.

A lot of money for booze and women

ON TARGET
Manuel Tinio

COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) Chair Jose Melo last weekend his resignation effective immediately, Mr. Chair?

• • •

Melo says his replacement should be "good in management," which definitely is not his forte.

Under Melo, the Comelec couldn't put its act together.

The commissioners couldn't decide with one voice on the issue of representation of marginalized groups.

They allowed Mikey Arroyo to represent security guards in Congress, but did not let Angelo Reyes represent in transport group.

Arroyo and Reyes are in the same boat since both ran under banners to which they don't belong: lawyers has never been a security guard while Reyes neither owns nor drives a public utility vehicle.

Since the exceptionally bright commissioners ruled in Arroyo's favor, they should have done likewise in the case of Reyes.

What is sauce for the gander is sauce for the goose.

• • •

Melo says he was unsure. Ad in giving the people credit for intelligence.

On the other hand, he admits that the poll body is a corrupt agency.

How can a corrupt agency hold credible elections?

• • •

Lance Vicomoto, whose wife and two daughters were killed in 1993 by soldiers who broke into their home, fears that the Supreme Court might acquit Hubert Webb et al of the grisly crimes.

He said a high court justice who he refuses to name is reportedly lobbying for Webb's acquittal.

Lance was referring to Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who has inhibited himself from taking part in the deliberations on the Vizconde massacre.

Carpio, like this columnist, testified for the defense in what was dubbed "the trial of the (2000s) century."

Webb, in effect, is questioning Carpio's integrity in effect, he has also cast a doubt on the integrity of the other justices, if the high court acquits Webb et al.

If Carpio should be harpooned, he will very likely never see the death of his loved ones.

• • •

A Mintoanbang official allegedly receives P5,000 bribery extension of highly-delicable goods (the writer of the Cebu pun), according to a source in the Visayan city.

The source said 1,000 containers arrive at the port everyweek.

That's P5 million a week for the Palaro official—a lot of money for booze and women.

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Shanties on Taguig municipal reserve torn down

By Mike Villarba

THE TAGUIG City government has resumed a task force on complement to campaign against illegal dwellers in order to implement a 2002 ordinance declaring parts of the area a municipal reserve.

Mayor Ma. Laarni Cayetano designated Senior Supt. Teresa Ingal-Santos, the city police chief, and Jimmy Canaveral, traffic department head, to spearhead the campaign against informal settlers who have built homes alongside C-5 road which city officials said is a municipal reserve right years ago.

Darwin Jang the mayor's spokesperson, said the task force has removed about 300 shanties that were encroaching the area. Only clearing operations last week.

"The structures that we cleared were not yet finished and vacant, and were built without any building permit from the city government of Taguig," Jang said in a statement.

The city government is not only the area for public use, intending to build parks or playgrounds on the 1.5 hectare lot.

Jang said the local government was verifying reports that certain persons unlawfully collected P5,000-P5,000 from settlers for protection against demolition teams.

"We encountered minor resistance but we are thankful that no one was reported hurt in the demolition," he added.

After clearing the area, a perimeter fence was placed within the peripherys to secure the lot.

The ordinance prohibits "any person or entity to occupy, plant or construct any structure on the municipal public reserve as herein established, or otherwise extend his or its private claim beyond the limits herein set."

Persons found violating the ordinance face a penalty of one month imprisonment or a fine of P5,000.

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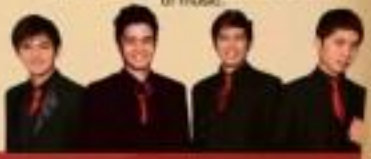

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Questions grow over deadly Cambodia stampede

By Seth Mydans

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—More than two days after hundreds of people died in a huge, tightly packed crowd on the last night of a water festival, both the cause of the death toll remained unclear on Thursday.

Most of the victims were caught in a crush on a small bridge. Rather than being trampled on, the victims suffocated or were crushed to death by a dense, immobile crowd to which some people were trapped by fences.

Various officials gave different reasons of the death toll, which may not include victims who drowned or were taken from the scene.

On Wednesday, the government said that at least 350 people had died and that 400 had been injured. But among other tallies on Thursday, a newspaper, The Phnom Penh Post, citing government sources, said the death toll had climbed to 456.

As grief and shock turned to demands for explanations, questions continued to grow over the causes of the crush, over the government's response and over the city's readiness to handle an influx of so many as three million people for the festival.

A preliminary government investigation reported the mostly rural festival-goers panicked when the suspension bridge began to sway slightly under the weight of the crowd.

That understanding is a report by a military police investigator, Lieutenant Chandaravie, who said on the morning after the disaster that survivors told him there had been shouts that the bridge was collapsing.

There were also questions about eyewitness accounts that people had been electrocuted, possibly by strings of lights on the footwalk of the bridge. Reports to that effect began immediately after the disaster, with some saying the police fired water hoses at the crowd that might have contributed to the problem.

Doctors at the city's main hospitals, Calmette, did not rule out that possibility but said they had seen no sign of electrocution among either the injured or the dead. But they said most of the injured had suffered from the squeezing of the packed crowd. Many had been trampled, banged said they had been unable to breathe and had passed out.

The police cause under criticism for a failure of crowd management and for an inadequate and incompetent response to the disaster. One officer said early half the officially reported number of police officers were actually deployed. Seriously injured victims were reported being dumped into vehicles together with the dead.

The government did quickly mobilize help for relatives of victims, many of whom traveled from distant provinces to claim the dead. Tables were set up near a makeshift morgue to confirm identities. Military trucks offered transportation home for coffins and family members. The morgue was still last cleared written today.

The Asian Human Rights Commission, based in Hong Kong, issued a report that characterized the questions and criticisms.

"While the exact cause of the stampede last night remains unclear, with contradictory reports surfacing it may have been instigated by either crowd series or poor construction of the bridge to both Pich Island, the failure of the state to control the crowd and limit the damage from the stampede is clear," the report said.

New York Times News Service

Jerusalem wall feud heightens tensions

JERUSALEM—The prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, on Thursday strongly denounced a Palestinian Authority paper that denies any Jewish connection to the Western Wall, the iconic holy site and place of Jewish worship in the Old City of Jerusalem, describing the report as "unprecedentedly absurd and outrageous."

The episode appeared to signal a worsening atmosphere after a two-month hiatus in peace talks.

Netanyahu's statement reverberated in a long article that appeared in Arabic on Monday on the information ministry website of the Western-backed Palestinian government, led by President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad in the West Bank. Its publication was previously reported by The Jerusalem Post.

Jerusalem and its holy sites are one of the most intractable and emotional issues of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Israel conquered the eastern part of Jerusalem, including the Old City, from Jordan in the 1967 war, and annexed it in a move that was never internationally recognized. About 200,000 Jews live in areas of East Jerusalem that have been developed since 1967, among almost a quarter million Palestinians. The Palestinian claim East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

The Western Wall is a remnant of the retaining wall of a plateau erected by Jews as the Temple Mount, the site of their ancient temples once stood. The plateau is also the third holiest site in Islam. Known in Muslims as the Haram al-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary, the compound now includes Al Aksa Mosque and the golden Dome of the Rock.

In Muslim tradition, the wall is the place where the Prophet Muhammad tethered his winged steed, Buraq, during his miraculous overnight journey from Mecca to Jerusalem in the seventh century.

The Palestinian paper denying any Jewish historical connection with the site was written by Al-Mutawakel Taha, an Information Ministry official. In it, he stated that "the Al Buraq Wall is the western wall of Al Aksa, which the Zionist occupation falsely claims ownership of and calls the Wailing Wall or Israel." AP/NYT/S

WOMEN, who worked as Mexicana airline crewmembers before the company stopped flying last August, wait in distorted bankruptcy, pose for pictures in Mexico City on Nov. 25.

Jobless stewardesses launch sexy calendar

MEXICO CITY—It could be the Mexican remake of the "The Full Monty"—just swap the out-of-work British steel workers for these 2007 ex-muscle for many Latin flight attendants.

Ten unemployed women with troubled Mexicana airlines, which filed for bankruptcy in August and suspended operations, launched a sultry stewardess-themed calendar on Thursday in a bid to call attention to their own plight and that of their airline—one of the world's oldest.

The 2011 calendar features glossy shots of the flight attendants, clad only in bikinis and aviation shades or abbreviated uniforms, draped over propellers and striking racy poses in the cockpit.

It was the brainchild of 30-year Mexicana veteran Coral Mena.

"It occurred to me because we all carried money and I thought that with so many pretty girls among Mexicana's staff there were bound to be some who'd be interested," she said.

Each of the 10 "stewardesses"—or flight attendants to Spanish—who visited up posing fetched our money from her own pockets to help cover the production costs of 100,000 pesos (about $8,000).

"The goal was to try to help ourselves because we lost everything overnight," said one of the women, 26-year-old Maribel Cuevas.

Mission accomplished.

The calendar has sparked a media frenzy in Mexico, and the first run of 5,000 was sold out even before Thursday's launch. A second edition of 3,000 calendars—which read for 149 pesos, or about $12, apiece—is in the works.

The calendar's release came on the heels of Mexicana's announcement that a restructuring proposal might allow it to resume some flights by mid-December. Under the plan, just 30 percent of the company's personnel would be retained.

Founded in 1921, shortly after launch carrier $1.M and has today's Quetzal airline, Mexicana used to serve 60 destinations in Mexico, the United States, other parts of the Americas and Europe. AP

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2				

PNOC shall accept Letter of Intent (LOI) to Buy/Lease PNOC property starting on the first working day after the publication of the Invitation to Submit Offer to Negotiate, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. As long as the property has not been sold, PNOC shall receive LOIs one (1) month before expiration of the validity of the floor price. The Negotiation Guidelines, Terms and Conditions may be secured from the Disposal Committee after payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000. The offeror shall submit the LOI together with the signed Negotiation Guidelines, Terms and Conditions for the Sale/Lease of various Properties to the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2F Estate Management Department, Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Award of the sale/lease of the above properties shall be based on the BEST OFFER received from the offerors. PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all offers or to waive any formality therein and/or to accept any such offer or portions thereof as may be advantageous to PNOC. For inquiries, please call tel. nos. 8478871/8984660 loc. 7761 or telephone no. 0918-9662656.

(Sgd.) ATTY. GRACIELA M. BARLETA
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Allocation
of PNOC Real Estate Properties

Dinosaur die-off cleared way for mammals to explode in size

WASHINGTON—They just needed some big room. New research shows the great dinosaur die-off made way for mammals to explode in size...some more massive than several elephants put together.

The largest land mammal ever A dinosaur-like creature, called Titanoboa, that stood 5.5 meters tall, weighed roughly 17 tons and grazed in forests in what is now Eurasia, it makes the heavy known woolly mammoth seem a bit puny.

Fossils each prehistoric giants is more than a modernly: it sheds new light on the evolution of mammals so that after killed or 65 habitats left existed by the dinosaurs.

Within 25 million years of the dinosaurs' extinction—June, in geologic terms—overall land mammals had reached a maximum size and their bodies' all, an international team of scientists reports on Friday in the journal Science. And while different species in different continents reached their peaks at different points in time, that pattern of evolution was remarkably similar was ideasle.

"Evolution can happen very quickly when ecology permits," said paleontologist Felisa Smith of the University of New Mexico, who led the research. "This is really coming down to ecology allowing this to happen."

Anyone who frequents natural history museums knows that the end of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago ushered in the age of mammals, and that some of those were gigantic. But the new study is the first comprehensive mapping of these giants in a way that helps explain how and why their size evolved.

"We didn't have a clear idea of how the story went after the extinction of the dinosaurs," explained Nick Pyenson, a curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History who wasn't involved with the new research.

Previous theories suggested that species diversity drove increases in size, but the new study didn't find that connection.

"It suggests there's a deeper explanation of how large body size evolves in mammals," he said.

Mammals did coexist with dinosaurs, but small ones, ranging from about the size of a mouse to a muskrat or a small dog.

"They were pretty much the unwanted stowaways around the feet of the dinosaurs," is how Smith of New Mexico's finish puts it. AP

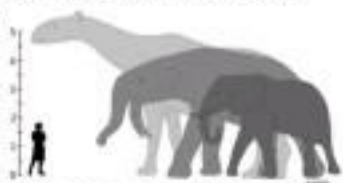

DIAGRAM shows the largest land mammals that ever lived (from left) and Arsinoitherium and chalicotherium, that would have competed with the living African elephant.

'Honeymoon killer' back in US

LOS ANGELES—An American who served prison time in Australia for his wife's drowning death during their honeymoon returned on Thursday to the U.S., where he faces murder charges that could carry a mandatory life punishment.

Gabe Watson, 31, arrived in Los Angeles on Thursday morning after he was deported on a commercial flight from Melbourne, Australia. Immigration Minister Chris Bowen said Watson was accompanied by two immigration Department staff and three Queensland state police officers. Watson released customs officials on June and was taken away in handcuffs.

He was booked on a local police

submission after his arrival, said Los Angeles police Lt. Anton McCluney. Watson will likely make a court appearance in Los Angeles before being extradited to Alabama.

Alabama hopes to arrange to bring Watson back to the state early next week, said Atty. Gen. Troy King. King said Australian authorities showed too much leniency to Watson, who served an 18-month sentence in that country after pleading guilty last year to manslaughter. Tina Watson, 26, drowned in 2003 while scuba diving with her husband of 11 days.

Gabe had been in investigations custody since completing a prison sentence earlier this month. Australia. AP

GABE Watson and his wife, Tina, pose on their engagement.

The WORLD

Editor Lorraine B. Ocampo

US stay in Afghanistan now as long as Soviets'

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—The former Soviet Union couldn't vote in Afghanistan, and now the United States is about to have something to comment with that futile campaign some years, Nidano.

On Friday, the US-led coalition will have been fighting in that country's Soviet conflict for as long as the Soviets did in their bumbling attempt to build up a socialist state. The two wars were led different goals—and domestically different body counts—but whether they have significantly different outcomes remains to be seen.

When started out as a quick war on Oct. 7, 2001, by the US and its allies to wipe out Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and the Taliban has instead turned into a long and dragging campaign. More about 100,000 Nato troops are fighting a burgeoning insurgency while trying to support and stabilize a nascent democracy.

A Pentagon-led assessment released earlier this week described the progress made since the United States injected 30,000 more troops into Afghanistan earlier this year as fragile.

The top US military commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David Petraeus, has said Nato's core objective is to ensure that Afghanistan "is never again a sanctuary to al Qaida or other transnational extremists that it was prior to 9/11."

He said the only way to achieve that goal is "to help Afghanistan develop the ability to secure and govern itself. Now, not to take hosts of Switzerland in 10 years or less, but to assist that to proceed as quickly as Afghanistan."

To reach that, there is an ongoing effort to get the Taliban to the negotiating table. Petraeus don't think it can be for up a committee to try to make peace, and the military hopes by campaign will help force the insurgents to seek a deal.

When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan on Dec. 27, 1979, it was to prop up a communist regime that was facing a popular uprising, but left largely by defeated on Feb. 15, 1989.

In 1992, the pro-Moscow government in Kabul collapsed and US-backed rebels took power. The Taliban eventually seized Kabul after a violent civil war that killed thousands more. It ruled with a strict interpretation of Islamic law until it was ousted by the US-led invasion.

Nader Nadery, an Afghan analyst who has studied the Soviet and US invasions, said "The time may be the same" for the two conflicts, "but conditions are not similar."

More than a million civilians died as Soviet forces propping up the government of Babrak Karmal waged a massive war against anti-communist mujahedin forces.

"There was indiscriminate mass bombardment of villages for the reasons of mujahedin," Nadery said. "[Civilian casualties are not at all comparable."

Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank and Afghanistan expert, said Nato forces have killed fewer than 10,000 civilians and a comparable number of insurgents.

The allied military commander has also been far smaller and more targeted. Even now, nearly 150,000 troops are stationed in the south and east of the country where the insurgency is most active. O'Hanlon points out that at the height of the resistance, there were 200,000 mujahedin representing 40 Afghan ethnic groups fighting the Soviets, while "the current insurgency is perhaps one-eighth as large and is only Pashtun."

"We do have big problems. But there is no comparison between this war and when the Soviets were [in]," he said.

"The Soviet war in Afghanistan took dramatically from what had been a weak but functioning state. Nato has, by contrast, helped Afghanistan to a 10-percent annual economic growth rate, seven million kids are now in school, and most people have access to basic healthcare within a two-hour walk," O'Hanlon said.

He also points out that although fighting was best-picked by the United States after the invasion "he has since been elected more by the overwhelming."

The United States and its allies, however, have made strategic mistakes, including taking their eye off Afghanistan and shifting their attention to the war in Iraq. In their ensuing power, the Taliban and their allies regrouped back and took control of many parts of the Afghan countryside and some regions in the south—especially parts of Kandahar and Helmand.

Khalil Safi, a professor at Kabul University who served in Civil Aviation minister under the Najibullah government, said Afghanistan the US effort because "the Americans never reached the goal for which they came."

"If they don't change their policy, if they don't reach their goals, if they don't reach agreement with the elected representatives and with the government, then it's not a far from that the Afghan people will be led up with the presence of these foreign forces," Safi said.

The United States has pledged their its commitment in Afghanistan will run past the 2014 date when Nato forces are supposed to transition to a non-combat role.

A Russian analyst said the Soviet Union tried to do something similar when it left Afghanistan. It backed Najibullah with money and weapons, and left behind a trained and loyalty armed Afghan military that is all controlled and the mujahedin took over Kabul in 1992. Najibullah stayed in the city's UN compound until Kabul fell to the Taliban in 1996, and he was hung from the main square.

"The Soviet Union tried to ensure its power would remain in the country, but that ended in the Taliban victory," said Mikhail Konovalov, the head of an independent think-tank.

"The US now wants to ensure a well-sufficient situation behind, backed by some support from Afghanistan," he said. "It will be more [or] successful it could be in Afghanistan." AP

WILL THIS US TANK END BITTER? In this May 1 6, 1988, photo, a convoy of tanks and armored personnel carriers roll out of Kabul, heading north back to the Soviet Union after nine years of misadventure. AP

Red Cross hits 'failed' HIV policy of nations

GENEVA—The spread of HIV and AIDS among millions of people could be slowed if addicts who inject drugs were treated as medical patients rather than as criminals, the International Federation of the Red Cross said on Friday.

More than 80 percent of the world's governments "are inclined to artificial realities, despite close to the evidence that treating people who inject drugs as criminals is a major factor that contributes to the spread of HIV," the Red Cross said.

An estimated 15 million people worldwide inject drugs, mainly because it delivers the fastest, most intense high, is what has become a growing trend in many countries, the Red Cross said in a report.

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Canadian Orthodox bishop faces sex assault charges

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA—The archbishop of an orthodox church in Canada was charged with two counts of sexual assault after turning himself in, police in Winnipeg, Manitoba, said on Thursday.

Lionel Nathalie Milton said Bernardo Williams Stoltzfus, who heads the Canadian archdiocese of the Orthodox Church in America, has been arrested of assaulting two people.

Stoltzfus, known as Archbishop Seraphim in his role as head of the church's Canadian branch, lives in Edmonton, Alberta, and turned himself in at police headquarters, said Alfred, who would not provide further details on the charges.

Stoltzfus, 64, had earlier served as a parish priest in St. Louis, South Carolina, Ontario and other areas, according to a biography on the church's website. He became an auxiliary bishop in Edmonton in 1987 and was elevated to archbishop 20 years later.

Winnipeg police said they are not aware of any more complainants.

Stoltzfus posted a letter on the archdiocese's website in October saying he was taking a leave of absence for health reasons. One week later, church officials issued a statement that said Stoltzfus was on leave because of a police investigation.

Police began their investigation in June and issued an arrest warrant last week.

The Orthodox Church in America counts some 700 parishes, monasteries, missions and other institutions across Canada, the United States and Mexico. It is separate from other Orthodox churches such as the Greek Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Stoltzfus has been released from custody pending his next court appearance. AP

3 teens survive on seagull, rainwater for 61 days adrift in the Pacific Ocean

SUVA—Three teenagers who survived on rainwater and a seagull during 61 days adrift off their remote Pacific territory of Tokelau, were safe in Fiji on Friday after they were hailed as a "miracle" rescue.

They were plucked from the water as weather forecasters warned of a tropical cyclone bearing down on Fiji.

It was initially believed the boys had been at sea for 55 days, but they were in fact longer, but rescuers who brought the news ashore said it had been another days.

"These three young teenagers survived the 61 days ordeal of drifting in the open sea," said Fiji Navy commander, Casale Ferreira Seniu, told reporters.

The boys, who had resorted to sipping rainwater when the rain stopped, would not have survived much longer, said Tau Fredericson, the first mate on the New Zealand-based tuna vessel Sea Mistress, which found the trio.

"The youngest of our crew happened to the Fiji vessel patrol boat Kula and arrived in the capital Suva on Friday where they were checked over by the navy base before being taken to hospital for other tough examinations.

"It's a miracle, it's a miracle," Dato Filo, the father of one of the boys, Filo Filo, 15, told Fijian Sky News. "I'm very grateful to God for bringing those three teenagers another chance."

Filo Filo, and his friends Samuel Perez, 15, and Edward Nasau, 15, were missing in a small aluminium boat in late September and were presumed to have died after canoeing for anywhere by the New Zealand air force in early October.

The 500 people on their island of Atafu held memorial services for them.

Fredericson was at the helm of the Sea Mistress when he found the teenagers on Wednesday.

"It's not as if we are set to Christ," he told Radio Media.

"I pulled the vessel up as close as I could to them and asked them if they needed any help. They said 'very much so.' They were excited to see us.

"They were very skinny, but physically in good health, compared to what they have been through."

Fredericson said the boys had a couple of coconuts on board but no water.

"Somehow they caught a bird. Colin's Grant here, but they caught it. They ate it, that is when it was rationed.

"They were having little sips of rainwater, which wouldn't have been a great idea, but they had only done it for the last couple days."

The boys had "only days to survive," he said.

On June 1982, American sailor Steve Callahan survived 76 days on a life raft in the Atlantic Ocean after his yacht was holed during a storm. AFP

TWO older dove teenagers Ocean Mistress aboard. AP

US shoppers look for HDTVs on Black Friday

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY—US shoppers searched for deals on high-definition televisions and popular toys early on Friday as retailers hoped that "Black Friday" would kick off the holiday shopping season in fierce style.

While some stores were open on Thursday and many retailers have offered "Black Friday" deals for weeks, shoppers still flocked up late Thursday and early Friday for the annual shopping ritual known as "Thanksgiving bargain-hunt."

Black Friday is a term adopted by retailers to refer to the time of year when their businesses move into the black, or turn a profit. This year their aim is expected to be about keeping sales momentum that has picked up modestly this year in the economy recovers.

Shoppers were disappointed in some of the offers they could see, although they were still wishing in line for lower prices they could get in the door.

"I'm looking at the TV and I may save $70 and I'm like, wow no, you've got to be kidding," said Angela Wall, as he waited outside a Best Buy Co Inc in Princeton, New Jersey, along with about 50 other bargain-hunters before midnight. One such lure, chiefly of flyers issued a statement that said Hitchins was on leave because of a police investigation.

Police began their investigation in June and issued an arrest warrant last week.

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Batibot

Kilalanin si KOKO KWIK-KWAK at ang bago ninyong mga kalaro!

Si Koko Kwik-Kwak ay isang 4-year old Philippine Eagle na mahilig kumanta, magsayaw at tumawa. Halina at makisaya buong linggo kasama ang iba pang mga kaibigan sa Batibot!

Simula ngayong Sabado, 8:30 ng umaga.

Abangan din mula Lunes-Biyernes, 9 AM at 4:15 PM

Doon sa Batibot tayo na, tayo na!

5 KIDS

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- Firms' credit access improving, says BSP /B3
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- Gov't asked to put an end to protectionism /B6

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Imports surged by 24.6% to $4.57B in Sept.

By Roland W. Dizon@gn

Monthly trade surplus the largest in 10 years

THE COUNTRY'S imports in September surged by 24.6 percent to $4.573 billion from that of same period last year, while the monthly trade surplus was the biggest in nearly 10 years, according to the National Statistics Office.

Total external trade, or the combined value of goods shipped in and out of country, reached $9.246 billion in the nine months to September—an increase of 21.9 percent over the year.

In September alone, the Philippines declared up a trade surplus of $771 million, the largest monthly surplus since December 2000, bringing the nine-month deficit to $1.63 billion, the statistics office added.

Compared to the August import bill valued at $4.452 billion, the shipments in September represented an increase of 2.7 percent.

A strong inflow of goods from abroad, which indicates a similar movement in exports, is considered to be a good sign for a country like the Philippines, which relies heavily on foreign supplies of electronic inputs that support its biggest source of export revenues.

NSO data further showed that electronic products accounted for 39.7 percent of total imports in September, with the value rising by 23.8 percent year-on-year to $1.632 billion.

Semiconductor devices and parts made up 16.7 percent of all electronics shipments, ending up $1.334 billion in bills.

Electronics imports in September increased by 6.6 percent from the $1.445 billion registered in August.

Japan still was the top source of imports during the month, accounting for

DETAILS, B4

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Nov. 25, 2010

44.180

Share prices decline

LOCAL STOCKS yesterday tumbled for the fifth straight session as investors became upset over the country's slower than-forecast third quarter economic growth.

The main index Philippine Stock Exchange index fell 43.81 points, or around 1.35 percent, to close at 4,280.58.

The decline was led by the industrial and services counters, which fell by 1.6 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively.

Market turnover was blown at PhP 3B billion compared to over PhP billion seen in previous days. There were 97 advancers against 86 decliners.

ENGR. B4

BSP bars execs' kin from bank posts

By Michelle F. Bueno

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has issued a regulation prohibiting spouses and relatives of top bank officers from occupying sensitive positions in a bank.

Under Circular No. 692, spouses and relatives within second degree of consanguinity of a bank manager, a cashier, or an accountant may not occupy positions that deal with handling, management or recording of assets of a bank.

These include senior management positions, such as chairperson, chief executive officer, chief operating officer, general manager and chief financial officer, as well as treasurer, controller and chief accountant, chief cashier, compliance officer and internal auditor.

"The spouse or a relative within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity of any person holding the position of manager, cashier, treasurer/ or of a branch or extension office of a bank/financial institution or their respective equivalent positions is disqualified from holding or being appointed to any of said positions in the same branch or extension office," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in the circular.

The circular would take effect 15 days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Regulators said the circular was issued to further safeguard banks from fraud. They said this could be greatly reduced if certain individuals would be barred from occupying sensitive bank positions.

The BSP regularly reviews bank regulations to protect the de-

BSP, B2

Metrobank to sell new shares

Bank expects to raise up to P10B

By Doris C. Dumlao

EARNING GIANT Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. aims to raise P10 billion from the sale of new shares to existing shareholders in January.

The Philippine Stock Exchange, in a memorandum yesterday, said it had approved Metrobank's application to list 306 million additional common shares to cover the stock rights offer.

Metrobank plans to sell new shares with a par value of P10 per share. The offer price will be based on market price with a discount of not more than 15 percent, which was estimated by the bank to generate up to P10 billion.

Based on yesterday's closing price of P71.50 per share, the 139 million shares of Metrobank would be worth about P10 billion while total market capitalization would be P140 billion.

The pricing date on the stock rights offer has been set for Dec. 10 while the offer period will run from Jan. 5 to 14 next year. The listing of the new shares was scheduled for Jan. 24 next year.

Shareholders of record as of Dec. 10, 2010 are eligible to subscribe to the upcoming offering.

The country's second largest bank in terms of assets has maindened its investments through subsidiary, First Metro Investment Corp., as the only domestic issue manager and domestic lead underwriter while HSBC was appointed sole international lead manager for this listed catalog.

Metrobank is further beefing up its core equity even if it already has the largest capital among all Philippine peer banks at P95 billion. Its share price has risen by about 80 percent since the start of the year.

In a recent special report on Philippine banks, global credit watcher Fitch Ratings said Metrobank might have to bolster its capital situation in light of Basel 3 given its sizeable "unsecured investments" in the power generation, mining and vehicle assembly sectors.

In the second time this year (last March also), will tap the capital market. In May it raised P5 billion to list 1 capital through a "top up" equity placement by selected global investors wherein the sale of primary shares was paired with the sale of an equal number of secondary shares by controlling shareholders. This allowed the bank to quickly raise core capital without going through the rigorous process of a public offering.

Compared to risk assets, Metrobank's list of capital adequacy ratio stood at 14 percent or above the minimum requirement of 10 percent. Counting only core or tier 1 capital, capital adequacy ratio was at about 11.4 percent.

Lopez holding firm trims capital deficit

LOPEZ HOLDINGS Corp., formerly known as Benpres Holdings Corp., has slashed its capital deficit by P6.7 billion as part of a quasi reorganization designed to clean up its balance sheet.

This developed as the Securities and Exchange Commission approved the company's request to undertake the equity restructuring that would wipe out the bulk of its P7.7 billion capital deficit, according to Lopez Holdings' disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Friday.

As of end-September, the holding firm posted a 226-percent increase in total consolidated net loss to P668.16 million year-on-year. This was primarily due to the 612-percent surge in net investments in and advances to affiliates' companies amounting to P529 billion. The increase represented its share in the earnings of power holding units First Philippine Holdings Corp. from the sale of Manila Electric Co. shares.

The company has also completed a debt restructuring program that trimmed the current portion of its lowest bearing loans and borrowings by 81 percent.

The restructuring also resulted a P676-million gain from debt restructuring in the first nine months as accrued interest expenses were waived following the signing of a restructuring deal in September.

With the restructuring, Lopez shed over P5 billion in payable debt was converted to long-term bonds.

As of end-September, Lopez Holdings' outstanding debt stood to P7.03 billion from P3 billion at end-2009.

Doris C. Dumlao

GMA chair buys additional network stocks

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE CHAIR of broadcast giant GMA Network Inc. has acquired additional shares of the company amid the recent decline in its value.

In a disclosure, GMA Network and GTG Management and Development Corp., named after the initials of the television stations's chair, Felipe L. Gozon, had acquired a total of 3.73 million shares of the network.

The shares were acquired from Nov. 23 to Nov. 25. The most expensive of the purchases was the 100,000 shares at 37.24 each. The cheapest involved 25,000 shares which were bought for P6.81 a piece.

These shares were valued at P36.44 million based on the transaction's closing share price of P9 on Friday. This is 37.65-percent below the company's share price of P8.50 on the day of its initial public offering (IPO) in 2007.

As of the end of the third quarter, prior to these purchases, PLG Management and Development held 12.08 million GMA Network shares, or a stake of 0.36 percent.

A similarly named company, PLG Management & Development Corp., which is also owned by Gozon, holds 654 million shares or 19.5 percent of GMA Network.

"Gozon is just signaling to investors that his company's stock is still fairly undervalued and that people should buy it," Jose Mari Luzon of brokerage firm Campos Lanuza & Co. said.

He has been the chair of GMA Network since the year 2000. He was also the firm's president and CEO.

Share . . . From page B1

while 38 stocks were unchanged.

BD Capital Securities expected local equities to weaken further as a result of Thursday's report on the domestic economy, which contracted by 0.5 percent quarter on quarter. The country's annual growth may also follow the 0.8-percent projection he posted.

"It was the country's first contraction in six quarters. This spooked investors, especially since the report came out after Thailand announced that it dipped into a technical recession in the third quarter," BD Capital said.

In the United States, the Dow Jones Industrial Index inched up 15.69 points or 1.37 percent overnight to finish at 11,187.28.

Doris C. Dumlao

Imports . . . From page B1

12.2 percent of total outgoes, or $$58.69 million—an increase of 4.2 percent year-on-year.

The United States came in second with a 10.8-percent share valued at $$51.92 million, or an increase of 39.3 percent.

Singapore's growth figure appeared to be "price impression," according to economist Edward Teather of UBS, Singapore.

"That's several months in a row that if the country's had a surplus. That suggests some income boost for the Philippines, as the balance of trade continues to be in the Philippines' favor. That should support overall incomes and growth," Teather said.

"The exports to the Philippines are actually quite strong on the trade data and on the GDP data. The Philippines does reflect the slowdown especially, but it is partly due to the electoral cycle. So I think the weakness in the Philippines is more consistent. The trade side is providing more income than we originally anticipated for the Philippines and that is good for growth," he added.

With a report from Reuters

BSP bars . . . From page B1

posting perils.

According to Tetangco, the country's banking sector is now enjoying high levels of liquidity and profitability, meaning the confidence of the public as reflected in the growing amount of bank deposits.

The BSP said efforts should be exerted to maintain this high level of confidence in the banking sector.

Data from the central bank showed that total bank deposits in the country amounted to P3.4 trillion as of end-August, up by 8 percent from P3.2 trillion posted in the same period last year.

"Savings and time deposits remained the main source of funds for banks. Growth in deposits reflected sustained depositor confidence in the banking system," the BSP said in a separate report.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

Firms' credit access improving, says BSP

By Michelle V. Rivera

LOCAL BUSINESSES found it easier to tap bank loans in the third quarter and was an encouraging development that could help sustain a "respectable" growth rate for the economy.

According to a survey conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the so-called "credit access index" for the fourth quarter hit +0.9 percent, up substantially from only +0.1 percent in the same period last year.

The latest index, however, is a slightly lower than the +10.1 percent registered in the third quarter.

The credit access index measures the assessment of enterprises around the country of their ease in banks' doors to tap loans. It is measured as the difference between the percentage of enterprise respondents that said they found it easier to access loans from banks versus the percentage of those that found the contrary.

The latest quarterly survey conducted between Oct. 1 to Nov. 9, covered 3,024 firms and had a 75.4-percent response rate. The surveyed firms were of different sizes and represented various business sectors.

The central bank said the improvement in accessibility of credit as perceived by enterprises is consistent with the growth in bank loans.

Latest data from the BSP showed that outstanding loans from commercial banks amounted to P2.17 trillion as of end-September this year, registering a +9.6-percent expansion from P1.98 trillion as of the same period last year.

Central bank officials said that sustained growth in bank lending, even at the height of the global turmoil last year, was one of the factors that helped the economy avoid a recession.

The Philippine economy grew by 3.1 percent last year, significantly slower than the 3.9 percent in 2008 and the 7.1 percent in 2007. Nonetheless, the Philippines was one of the few countries whose economies did not contract.

BSP officials said low interest rates aided the increase in demand for and supply of loans.

However, some economists said that given banks should be lending more given their high levels of liquidity, instead of just depositing these excess funds with the central bank.

Banking industry data show that deposits of banks in the special deposit facility of the BSP has already breached P2-trillion mark, which is a historic high.

The BSP agreed that banks should lend more, encouraging them to ease credit requirements especially for small and medium enterprises.

On top of this, the central bank has already moved to take steps to encourage banks to lend more to smaller corporate borrowers.

Although access to credit is improving, many SMEs still find it difficult to meet bank requirements, leaving many of them to borrow from informal lenders.

Other borrowers, on the other hand, complain that banks often charge them rates that are higher than average.

Bread demand stable amid price hike

By Abigail L. Ho

BAKERS ARE not afraid of losing their market despite their recent implementation of a P1-per-loaf price hike and a 50-centavo price increase for every 10-piece pack of pan de sal, as holiday spending is expected to fuel sales of bread and bread products.

Serafin G. Uriarte Jr., president of Goldilocks Bakeshops Philippines, Inc., said bread demand was sluggish in the first two weeks of the month, but started to pick up just when bakers implemented a price increase.

"During the second half of the month, we saw improved consumption and demand for bread. I think that in the first half of the month, people were holding back on their purchases because of the coming Christmas season. But consumers have since started buying," he said.

He refuted that during the holiday season, big and small bakeries alike produced at full capacity and most of the time even extended normal manufacturing capacity.

This was why bakers were not apprehensive about a market shrinkage despite the recent price hike, he said. January, however, is another story altogether.

"We don't foresee any effect on demand now, but our worry is for January. Customers usually shift back to diets, so we really have to find a way to temper price increases," he said.

Bakers last week jacked up prices of loaf bread by P1 and of pan de sal by 50 centavos per 10-piece pack, following a tripartite conference on the price of flour.

In an earlier interview, Uriarte said flour prices went up by P46 per 25-kilogram bag last October, but bakeries only increased their prices last week. Since then, flour prices had risen by another P20 or less.

Another P1-per-loaf price hike would have to be implemented by mid-December, he said, if the Department of Trade and Industry would not be able to find a source of cheaper-to-land sugar for local bakers.

Poultry import control planned

By Roy T. Chicondes

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is conducting consultations with livestock stakeholders in response to a resolution in the House of Representatives ordering the suspension of frozen chicken leg quarters and chicken cuts or offals.

The suspension orders is meant to prevent cheaper chicken meat from flooding the local market, Assistant Secretary Dennis Carlington told reporters.

Resolution 361 filed by lawmakers in the House of Representatives directs the department to "immediately stop the importation of chicken meat and frozen meat leg quarters," Carlington said.

The resolution also orders the department to consult poultry stakeholders in its implementation capacity.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala earlier vowed to take a tougher stance on chicken imports, which he said is pulling down prices of locally-produced chicken, which has resulted in losses for domestic poultry owners.

Alcala said that government agencies will review import permits, as well as smuggler's row cockpit of businesses.

Ariel Carlos congratulations will be done only after consultations with industry stakeholders, he said.

He vowed that the Department of Agriculture will step it after penalties on chicken smugglers, whose activities pull down prices when they flood the market with imports.

In August, there was a chicken supply glut when too many accredit "grandparent" stocks were imported into the country.

In response, the government now only companies importing grandparent stocks and asked them to cut production.

Producers did so by culling old stocks and selling broiler eggs to table eggs.

Moreover, the controls have now resulted in slightly higher prices for chicken.

On Monday, Carlington said, prices climbed P5.6 per kilo for live weight chicken. As of today the chicken prices went down by P3, he said.

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICES (SRPs) FOR NOCHE BUENA PRODUCTS

(Updated as of 26 November 2010)

PRODUCTS	UNIT	SRP
HAM		
PUREFOODS-HAM		
Fiesta Cooked Ham	115g	65.00
Fiesta Cooked Ham	1.2kg	350.00
Fiesta Cooked Ham	1.45kg	440.00
Fiesta Cooked Ham	2.9kg	880.00
Fiesta Cooked Ham	500g	230.00
Chinese Cooked Ham	230	280.00
Star Shaped Ham	500g	240.00
Ham Hock	500g	110.00
SWIFT - SAN CORPORATION		
Buona Buona Ham	1kg	440.00
Star Shaped Ham	500.00g	220.00
Jamon de Bola	1kg	280.00
Festival Ham	1kg	420.00
Festival Ham	1kg	450.00
Spicy Ham	1kg	500.00
SAN MIGUEL FOODS, INC.		
Chinese Style Ham (Kiln)	3.4kg - 4.1kg	320.00
Chinese Ham Island	280g	140.00
Chinese Ham Bilao-in-Bilao	1.4kg - 1.7kg	680.00
Pizza Ham / Cubed Ham Loaf	180g	170.00
FRUIT COCKTAIL		
DEL MONTE		
220 Fruits Fancy Juice	220g	40.00
220 Fruits Fancy Juice	220g	50.00
Tropical Fruit Cocktail Juice Drink	1.000 kg	110.00
Tropical Fruit Cocktail Juice Drink	500g	60.00
Tropical Fruit Cocktail Juice Drink	240ml	30.00
Sweetened Tropical Fruit Mix in HS	836g	90.00
Sweetened Tropical Fruit Mix in HS	836g	90.00
Sweetened Tropical Fruit Mix in HS	432g	50.00
CHEESE - SARANGANI ESPRESO		
NEW ZEALAND DELIGHTS INC.		
NEW ZEALAND DELIGHTS INC.		
Chilli Nuts Cheese Ball	200g	90.00
Chilli Nuts Cheese Ball	500g	180.00
Chilli Nuts Cheese Ball	1kg	350.00
Chilli Nuts Cheese Ball	1kg	330.00
Chilli Nuts Cheese Quicknut	200g	90.00
Chilli Nuts Cheese Quicknut	500g	180.00
Chilli Nuts Cheese Quicknut	1kg	350.00
Chilli Nuts Cheese Quicknut	1kg	330

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Makati, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
TONY & HOUSEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. Ground Fl. DSGI & DSGX Festival Mall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Chan Siu Lam / Korean	General Manager
TONY & HOUSEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. Ground Fl. DSGI & DSGX Festival Mall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Kwak Lee / Korean	Hair Stylist
UNITED RAIL TRANSIT & TRADE CORP. G/F LCP Banko Perk Center, LCP Complex, Pasay City	Lim Young Min / Korean	Operation Manager
ANNA AND PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION FOR BASIC & ADULT EDUCATION (APBAEI), INC. G-H Casal Bldg., F.B Harrison St., Brgy. 648-H-14, Pob. 2, Quezon City	Mohammad Ibrahim Nasir / Bangladesh	Consultant Coordinator
GENSUN TRADING INC. 4th Avenue Blvd., Nichols, Parañaque City	Jin Jin Yoon / Korean	Sales Manager
DAIWAU PHILIPPINES INC. Rm. 107 KEC Corporate Building, Annex III, Lot No. 10, Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Jun Ramos Mohamad / Filipino	Logistic Translator
BANILA GOLD RENEWABLE ENTERPRISES, INC. 2nd Floor Dr. Jose P. Rizal Ave. Extension, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Makati City	Hyun Seok Kwak / Korean	Chief Technology Officer
TIMI KARA RESOURCES CORPORATION 2nd Floor Dr. Jose P. Rizal Ave. Extension, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Makati City	Hyeon Soo Kim / Korean	General Manager
LUCKING FENGHUA GROUP PHILIPPINE MINING CO. INC. G-416 Ground Floor Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kongbo Zhang / Chinese	Surveyor
LUCKING FENGHUA GROUP PHILIPPINE MINING CO. INC. G-416 Ground Floor Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jinhua Zhai / Chinese	Surveyor
LUCKING FENGHUA GROUP PHILIPPINE MINING CO. INC. G-416 Ground Floor Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Xingfu Sun / Chinese	Surveyor
PROPHETECH SOLUTIONS, INC. 14th floor Rufino Pacific Tower, 6784 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Pierre-Henri Andre Lucien Fredoli / French	Chief Liaison Specialist
ARTHURSELINE INTERNATIONAL, INC. G-A-N-D, 14th Jollibee Plaza Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Hiram Ernesto Ugalde / Mexican	Research Consultant
ADMINISTRATION CONSULTANCY, INC. G-A-N-D, 14th Jollibee Plaza Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Ji Shen Lim / Malaysian	Sports Trainer
ADMINISTRATION CONSULTANCY, INC. 2/F Cherry Foods Inc., Makati City	Chong Hee Han / Malaysian	Sports Trainer
DAILOSH CAPITAL LIMITED 11/F FEDEX Tower, 6788 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Chaisiva Vasavathiti / Indonesian	Business Analyst, Corporate Service Officer
NORENS CORPORATION 20/F ROBC Plaza Ortigas Center, 6816 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Thorsten Walter / Germany	Managing Director
SALES BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES PHILIPPINES Level 10, Point Legend Towers, cor. 6th Ave. & 23rd St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Yi Qiu / Malaysian	Operations Manager
DESIGNS TRADING INC. 7th Avenue Blvd., Nichols, Parañaque City	Yuchen Jang / Republic of Korea	Sales Sales Manager
NORENS CORP. 20/F ROBC Plaza, Ortigas Center, 6816 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kang Hee Seo / Malaysian	Supervisor for Trading

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
LARKSON CEBU SERVICES (PHILS.) INC. 22/F The Salcedo Tower, 169 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Anuj Dixit / Indian	Vice President for Marketing
IBM DATA-BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED 20/F ATRIUM Tower, 6788 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Manoj Verma / Indian	Team Leader - Operations
IBM DATA-BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED 20/F ATRIUM Tower, 6788 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Navneet Singh Jaitawat / Indian	Team Leader - Operations
NOVARA CORPORATION 2/F Gulab Plaza, Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City	Jan Robert Johansson / Swedish	Managing Director
IBM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Technopro Tower, 6780 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wai Tuck Lau / Malaysian	Sports-Local Operations Officer
IBM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Technopro Tower, 6780 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kar Wai Tan / Malaysian	Sports-Local Operations Officer
DR. HUANG TONG ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC, INC. Unit 1, Ground Bldg., Arts Center Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Yong Sun Kim / Korean	Clinic Acupuncturist and Traditional Chinese Medicine Doctor
WONDERMED MODELING AGENCY INC. 2/F Centre Condominium, 10 Augusto St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Cleanne Audrey Rivera / American	Model
ASIAN HOSPITAL, INC. 4/F UCPB Cash Wise, Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Raymond Carbonell / American	Chief Financial Officer
TOUCHPOINTS INC. Unit 1101 Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	James Daniel Mitchell / American	Consultant
IBM DATA-BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INC. 20/F ING Corp Center, 6756 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Deepak Harikishan / Indian	Manager - Information Security and Compliance
ABS PHILIPPINES, INC. 23rd Floor BDO Equitable Bank Tower, 8751 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Ezra Yamaguchi / Japanese	Tagalog Officer, Project - Field Trainer Officer
LINES A FRAMES 17 LTD. Block 10 Kampung Kayu Manis Road, Pasay City	Chuan Ong / Chinese	Designer/Manager
LINES A FRAMES 17 LTD. Block 10 Kampung Kayu Manis Road, Pasay City	Binbin Cai / Chinese	Production Manager
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES, INC. Building 7, Ayala Corporate Office, 7000 Ayala Blvd. Cor. Dela Rosa Business Park, Brgy. Dela Paz, Pasay City	Sangjoon Kim / Korean	Technical Support Representative-Account Account
SINGAPORE TOURISM INTERNATIONAL PTE. LTD. - PHILIPPINE BRANCH 28/F Globe Telecom Plaza Pioneer cor. Madison St., 1552 Mandaluyong City	Hoon Tee Tan / Singaporean	Chief Technical Advisor
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES INC. Building 7, SM Corporate Office, 7000 Ayala Blvd. Cor. Dela Rosa Business Park, Brgy. Dela Paz, Pasay City	Anne Marie Wilson / Australian	Laboratory Assistant Trainer

ERRATUM

In the advertisement published on August 14, 2010 by the position of Mr. Geoffrey Lui Kee, the POSITION/S/AL PRIVATE LTD. should have been Country Manager, and not as published.

We apologize.

RAYMUNDO S. ABRAGUNTE
Regional Director

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s, please communicate with the Regional Director.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Lazo by Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabela Memorial Hospital hereby invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to bid for the following project/s:

Name of Project	Provision of Services with Grits of Hard (L&L) (Phase I) (Main Building, 4th Floor)
Approved Budget for Contract (Location)	P1,625,000.00 10 Calendar Days Dr. Jose Fabela Memorial Hospital, Lazo by Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License, applicable to the contract, have completed/on-going the contract with a value of at least 50% of the Approved Budget, and have key personnel and equipments available for the construction of the project(s). The DJFMH-BAC will use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria in the Bidding Documents/manuals and as in the Preliminary Examination criteria. The DJFMH-BAC will conduct post-qualification. If the lowest calculated bid

Schedule of Bidding Documents	
Issuance of Bidding Documents	November 22, 2010 to December 14, 2010
Pre-bid Conference	December 1, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m. Dr. Jose Fabela Memorial Hospital
Bid Opening	December 15, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m. Dr. Jose Fabela Memorial Hospital

Bid documents may be secured at the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office upon submission of a non-refundable fee. For details, please contact Administrative Officer V Ms. Flor Bautista at 733-7480.

Schedule of Activities		
Pre-bid Conference	December 1, 2010 2:00 p.m.	Dr. Jose Fabela Memorial Hospital
Bid Opening	December 15, 2010 2:00 p.m.	Dr. Jose Fabela Memorial Hospital

All prospective bidders for eligibility, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, opening of bids, evaluation, post-qualification and award of contract, the DJFMH-BAC will use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Bidding Documents/manuals and as in the Preliminary Examination criteria. The DJFMH-BAC will conduct post-qualification. If the lowest calculated bid determined to be responsive to the requirements and conditions of the bidding documents, the bidder shall be awarded the contract.

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such bid/s as may be considered advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid/s or participation in the bidding.

FRANKLIN D. LAPA, M.D.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Tel. 733-7480

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabela Memorial Hospital invites interested bidders to bid for the following EQUIPMENT:

		ABC
1. Mobile X-ray Machine	unit	P 1,500,000.00
2. Ultrasound Utility Vehicle (UVU) Complete Equipment set including 4x4 Vehicle	unit	1,500,000.00

All prospective bidders for eligibility, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, opening of bids, evaluation, post-qualification and award shall be governed by Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such bid/s as may be considered advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid/s or participation in the bidding.

DR. JOSE FABELA M.D.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

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Gov't asked to put an end to protectionism

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH THE world becoming increasingly flat, the government should stay away from protectionist policies and instead find ways to make local industries globally competitive.

Jesus Arag, country representative of World Bank-private sector arm International Finance Corp., said the country should "open up" more, as many of its neighbors were doing that in the aggressive manner.

"We really need to open up. If the guys are open, then we should take advantage of it," he said in a recent forum. "My is a country have used protectionist policies for far too long. That's why our industries are not competitive. We should join the bigger market. This is the way the world's going. We really need to learn to compete."

Asian Institute of Management Policy Center associate director Lawlyn Bonoan added that the country also needed a "cohesive industrial development, trade and competition policy."

To boost the country's competitiveness, she said concrete steps would have to be taken to improve the country's energy infrastructure, road networks, and other infrastructure needed to do business.

These should be done in parallel with the lowering of tariffs as provided for by various regional and bilateral free trade agreements.

Specific to the food industry in service, Philippine Institute of Development Studies senior research fellow Nicholas Adduru said the government should come up with "sector focused policies" to make the sector truly competitive.

Exemptions in the sugar sector should be geared toward research and development to improve current processes and methods, she said. Investments in the fields of grain supply should also be given greater attention.

The Board of Investments is in the process of outlining the implementing rules and regulations for Executive Order 877-A, or the Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Development Program.

The EO aims to make the local automotive more competitive and to diversify the country's manufacturing base.

Cohesive, more focused policies needed

UEM sets fundraising plan

UEM DEVELOPMENT Phs. Inquirer, a holding firm held by Manny Pangilinan, is planning to build another fundraising for its heavy lane large-scale infrastructure businesses.

The company intends to acquire an undisclosed controlling stake in a firm operating the country's electricity grid.

UEM, which will be renamed Synergy Grid & Development Philippines Inc., also said its board had approved a change in its trading symbol to "SGP" from "UEM" contingent with the proposed change in its corporate name, subject to the approval of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

It is a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, UEM said the new fundraising initiative would be on top of an earlier announced plan to sell through a public offering 60 million new voting preferred shares.

UEM said the initiative might involve the assumption of the liabilities of its subsidiaries or borrowings.

The board also agreed to offer all of the assets of the holding firm as security for the fundraising.

Earlier, UEM acquired out a share swap arrangement worth $2 billion from the latter's stake of 60 percent of the electricity-capacity-rich operations of Hopewell Gold Corp. of the Philippines (HGCP).

UEM plans to issue 100 million common shares or P140 per share in exchange for all the outstanding shares of San Miguel Holdings Inc. and Pacific Gl Holdings Inc. *Dhesa L. Dumlao*

Science Film Festival Launched at the SM Supermalls

The event launching of the Science Film Festival in Science One-of-a-Kind (SM Mall of Asia) brought together members of the diplomatic corps, international organizations, government officials, and students from Metropolitan Manila.

A joint project of the SM Mall Festival Center and the Old Cinema with the Embassy of France, Cinema Sidlak Philippines, the Korea Center for Biodiversity, UNESCO, the Department of Education, and MSD (SM Foundation), the festival of the Philippines-to-the-World which will take place from November 30, 2010 to January 31, 2011 in venues in various ASEAN countries like Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Cambodia. This is also the first year in which the festival has a United Nations agency as an official partner.

In time for the United Nations declaration of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, the Philippine segment this year is being coordinated by Environmental Management Bureau Director Ricardo Jalbuena and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It is highlighting the Philippine Coastal Ecosystems.

The festival, which will take place in various areas in the Philippines, includes selected films that combine state-of-the-art science and scientific issues to interest audiences especially the youth. By presenting all the full complement of films in an accessible and interesting way to broad audiences, the festival encourages a culture where films that effectively combines education and entertainment among the latest genres.

On the opening day of the SM Mall of Asia Cinema 1, the festival premiered the French film Oceans by Jacques Perrin. The beautifully crafted film about the photogenic wildlife and underground wonders in and around the world, was enjoyed by hundreds of grade school and high school students from Caloocan, Mandaluyong, Quezon City, and Manila Science High School. Students from the Gen Hyo School, the Quezon Science High School, the Philippine Science High School, and the Ayala Technical School joined them.

SM Director Ambassador Christine Ludovica Weber-Lichtenfeld (4th from left), Ambassador Gregory Domecq (2nd from left), Ambassador Jean-Pierre Lafon (3rd from left), Embassy of France Cultural Counselor Christian Morin, SM Mall of Asia Mall Manager Pedro Sr. Director Isidro's Luisa Zuela, SM Vice Marketing Mila Clavo, from Embassy Audio Visual Assistant Marvin Mendoza and SM-MOA Marketing Ofelia Ebora.

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On November 30, the Science Discovery Center will showcase films about the seas and explore Philippine biodiversity. Screenings will be at 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 NN, 1:30 PM, 3:00 PM, 4:30 PM, and 6:00 PM. It is free and no ticket is required.

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The Science Film Festival is organized by Cinema Sidlak in partnership with ASEC Foundation, the Embassy of France, the UNESCO Center for Biodiversity, and the SM Supermalls.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Ellen Grace D. Manganaan
[illegible]
E-mail [illegible]

Is milk friend or foe?

By Tessa R. Salazar

A NOW-CLASSIC US advertising tagline goes: "Got milk?" And that ad, which ran in print and TV campaigns, then extolled the properties of the drink originally designed by nature for suckling calves as being beneficial for the development of humans' strong bones, as well.

But now, some scientists and health advocates have brushed off that liquid taboo mustache off their lips and cried foul over how cow's milk has been drastically changed by commercial demands and modern technology.

Such is right Dr. Samuel Epstein, chair of Cancer Prevention Coalition who has indicted over 200 scientific publications, and whose Johnson Health was able to interview several times, indicted that the US Food and Drug Administration FDA has routinely approved the sale of milk from cows injected with genetically engineered (recombinant) bovine growth hormone (rBGH) in order to increase milk production by 10 percent. "The agency did so despite evidence that this synthetic hormone poses a wide range of cancerous and public health hazards," Epstein said.

Online info

Hangouts organized for Philippine Boxer Gracie Natividad recently posted an online "Think Before You Pink" information campaign pointing to pharmaceutical firm Eli Lilly as making and selling products, including rBGH, linked to the disease.

Eli Lilly's animal health division, Elanco Animal Health, manufactures rBST or recombinant bovine somatotropin, which is structurally similar to rBGH and which Elanco brought from Monsanto.

Epstein warned in his books "What's in Your Milk?" and the "Breast Cancer Prevention Program" that rBGH milk is "unnatural, contaminated by pus and antibiotics, supercharged with excess levels of a growth stimulant readily absorbed from milk" and poses risks of breast, colon and prostate cancers.

rBGH is a genetically engineered, potent variant of the natural growth hormone produced by cows. The excellent hormones that also have found to cause udder infections in cows (mastitis), consequently leading to contamination of milk with pus and bacteria, as well as with antibiotics used to treat them; these antibiotics may be carcinogenic and allergenic and can be responsible for the spread of antibiotic-resistant infections in humans.

Epstein added that the growth hormones produce milk contaminated with high concentrations of a potent growth factor insulin-like Growth Factor 1 (IGF-1) which regulates cell division and growth. Levels of IGF-1 in milk are further increased following pasteurization.

Furthermore, IGF-1 resists digestion in the human gut. When it passes into the bloodstream it can produce abnormal or premature growth-promoting effects.

IGF-1 induces rapid division and multiplication of normal human breast epithelial cells in tissue cultures, as well as maintaining the malignancy of human breast cancer cells, including their invasiveness and ability to spread to distant regions.

An antibiotic commonly under the cows sick, it leads to higher costs for veterinary care and antibiotics, Epstein explained.

'Hard scientific evidence'

Each scientist Jane A. Plant, who is also a breast cancer survivor, explained in chapter 6 of her book "The Breast Cancer Conspiracy: Prevention," the "hard scientific evidence" she had collected over the years linking the consumption of dairy products to breast and prostate cancer.

She also linked calcium lost from the body directly with ingesting animal-based proteins: "a diet high in animal-based proteins increases the amount of acid in the body. This triggers a buffering mechanism which releases stored calcium from the bones. The body would normally replenish the calcium released, but the animal protein inhibits the gastrointestinal function that normally does so[illegible]. The body then excretes the calcium, causing bone loss."

Because Health recently learned that since 1994 Elanco Animal Health has been operational in the Philippines and manufacturing rBST.

Elanco Animal Health Division country director for Luzon Rodrigo [illegible] told Inquirer Health that, according to the Journal of American College of Nutrition in December 2005, "drinking milk does not increase breast cancer risk, regardless of whether the milk is organic, rBST-free or conventional (produced using modern farming methods, including rBST). Milk contains numerous, carcinogenic hormones and breastfed women and formula-fed babies. Milk contains vitamin D, all of which have the potential to protect against breast cancer.

Thoroughly reviewed, documented

"The safety of rBST for humans, animals and the environment has been thoroughly reviewed and documented through 40 studies including the US FDA approval process, independent university publications, the Commission of the European Communities (Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)," the Elanco Europe Committee on Food Additives (Codex).

"Regarding IGF-1, the differences are insignificant. The human body naturally produces nearly 100 times more IGF-1 than is contained in milk. Even supplemental or recombinant IGF-1 is not orally active in the GI tract, including pasteurization or commercial dairy fusion, some weakening the response of more than 200,000 individuals (who) for over on several hundred farms."

Philippine also pointed out various hormone in another benefit of rBST.

"The estimated impact of not using rBST with the production of only 10 percent of the US dairy cow would require approximately additional $140 million per year as well as increase the carbon footprint equivalent to cutting down 92 million trees, using 0.8 million compact fluorescent light bulbs or adding an additional 1,33,000 cars on our highways."

Cause of death

Citing a 2008 study, Ong-Cauzon said breasts are the top vulnerable parts of a woman's body that are most vulnerable to cancer next to breasts are the ovaries and lungs.

Breast cancer is the third leading cause of deaths among Filipino males and females. Topping that list are lung cancer and liver cancer.

Ong-Cauzon urged Filipinos to exercise daily, to eat fruits and vegetables and to undergo regular medical checkups. "Prevention is better than cure," she said.

The Philippines also ranks ninth among countries with the highest incidence rate of cancer.

Ong-Cauzon said breast cancer is the leading killer of women aged 35 to 54 worldwide. More than a million women develop breast cancer without knowing it and almost 300,000 die from it every year, she said.

With a report from Kristine Elyffar Tavis, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Universal healthcare to help reduce inequities in health

By Theresa Sarmiento

WHILE THE Philippines continues to promote itself as a medical tourism hub, it is said to note that 60 percent of Filipinos who succumbed to sickness die because quality healthcare remained elusive to them.

And the figure submitted, critics is more than owes per only of the difficulties and challenges being faced by the Philippine healthcare system, but also of its inability to provide the poor Filipinos with adequate healthcare assistance.

"We are aware of the fact that most Filipinos, especially the poor which is considered as the most vulnerable segment, never had the opportunity to have themselves examined by a professional doctor," said Health Secretary Enrique Ona.

"It is the present administration's aim to change the mindscape of the present healthcare system by implementing comprehensive reforms," he said points as the Second Philippine Health Outlook Forum held recently by the Zuellig Family Foundation.

One emphasized that one of the solutions that the administration is looking at to address these challenges would be to implement the so-called "universal healthcare," which focuses on the welfare of the poor.

Having such a program in place is seen to help reduce the inequities in healthcare, which is a result of the widening gap between the rich and the poor.

According to Ona, universal healthcare is both a vision and a strategy of the Aquino administration.

"It is a vision of how things ought to be, where Filipinos are healthy, free from disease and infirmity and having access to quality basic health services," he explained.

Policy directions

Admitting how the present Aquino administration is dismayed at the miserable healthcare delivery state of the Bureau of Health Insurance. Ona also presented during the forum several policy directions that the national government plans to implement in order to change the present state of the healthcare industry.

Some of these policies, which are geared toward having universal healthcare, included a reformed Philhealth to be able to expand to the needs of the poor, the need to rehabilitate and enhance present health facilities to improve access to quality and affordable drugs and medicines, a more appropriate promotion of healthy lifestyle, and continuing efforts in improving governance and regulation to eliminate graft and corruption in all areas of healthcare.

Clustering of health facilities (regional, provincial and district hospitals) was also being eyed to address the fragmentation of health services at local levels, Ona added.

> Most Filipinos never had the opportunity to have themselves examined by a professional doctor

Partnerships

He said, however, quick to admit that with the country's limited resources, there is[illegible] needed to be backed by a collaboration between and among public, private, multisectoral and civil society stakeholders, in order to be successful.

"Given the limited resources, the Department of Health will enter into public-private partnerships in securing health key determinants particularly in health facilities and infrastructure technology," he said.

It is in this regard that Zuellig Family Foundation, with its aim to help the local government address the poor healthcare situation, selected a number of municipalities to implement various programs aimed at improving the healthcare delivery.

Among ZFF's programs included funding resources and upgrading of several health facilities that can help improve access to quality healthcare.

It also conducts dialogues and trainings to educate the local governments, including the nurses and other stakeholders, about the various health issues being faced by their respective towns and municipalities. Such information awareness campaigns also help them come up with possible solutions to these problems.

Despite all these developments, ZFF and Ona are one in saying that there remained a number of important issues that needed to be addressed to improve the local healthcare system. Both, however, are still hoping that with the new administration's aggressive policy drive, a better future for the healthcare industry is already perfectly in the offing.

North Luzon women discover the Mammotome

By Goldwin Monib
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—A public school teacher fell her children in Mt. Province to undergo a biopsy early this month to ensure a lump in her breast at the Saint Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart here.

Lying comfortably on her back, the teacher became the very first patient in Northern Luzon to undergo a fast, painless, "invisible procedure" called the Mammotome breast biopsy system.

A biopsy requires doctors to remove dissected tissue samples from a patient for examination to determine the gravity of the illness.

But the teacher resumed her classes the very next day, without stitches and scars.

Using ultrasound, the Mammotome gently swallowed up, cut and removed suspicious tissue from the teacher's breast.

After less than a week, she got her results and was relieved to find out she tested negative for cancer.

Extremely painful

This was not the scenario, however, for women three 10 years ago.

Monica Begonia, a cancer survivor who now leads a cancer support group, said she underwent "an extremely painful biopsy" in 2005 for suspected breast cancer.

"Now I wish that technology existed years ago. Patients like me should not have experienced mental and emotional trauma with all the needles inserted in our breast. I could not describe the pain," said Begonia, president of the Baguio-based Mother's Buddies Cancer Support Group.

Mammotome is a minimally invasive breast biopsy that helps doctors diagnose if breast abnormalities are cancerous, said Dr. Sherry Ong-Cauzon.

Ong-Cauzon is a surgeon who took part in Mammotome training in South Korea in September, along with Bonifacio Antonio, Alfredo Ignacio and Rolando Legaspi.

"Biopsies with the Mammotome are performed in less than an hour, requires no stitches and uses wounds as a sign to the operating room," she said.

The Mammotome can biopsy a wide range of breast abnormalities, including the deposits of calcium which may indicate cancer.

Six machines from the United States were recently installed in various hospitals in Metro Manila. The first unit serving Northern Luzon was set up at the ISLH hospital on Nov. 15.

Lungs and all it takes for doctors to determine cancer is a single laser-thin lens the size of the breast that appeared suspicious. Smartt-ray, physical examination or the results of a mammogram.

But the traditional method, he said, often involves several needle insertions to extract a sample tissue from the breast.

In times, the process leaves scarred and disfigured breasts that often discourages women from pursuing cancer breast exams.

The Mammotome procedure, however, allows patients to resume their normal routine.

The Mammotome-trained doctors said the procedure leaves an insignificant scar at a stretch head, and no stitches are required since the incision can be covered by a small adhesive strip.

Cause of death

Citing a 2008 study, Ong-Cauzon said breasts are the top vulnerable parts of a woman's body that are most vulnerable to cancer next to breasts are the ovaries and lungs.

Breast cancer is the third leading cause of deaths among Filipino males and females. Topping that list are lung cancer and liver cancer.

Ong-Cauzon urged Filipinos to exercise daily, to eat fruits and vegetables and to undergo regular medical checkups. "Prevention is better than cure," she said.

The Philippines also ranks ninth among countries with the highest incidence rate of cancer.

Ong-Cauzon said breast cancer is the leading killer of women aged 35 to 54 worldwide. More than a million women develop breast cancer without knowing it and almost 300,000 die from it every year, she said.

With a report from Kristine Elyffar Tavis, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Asean cardiovascular disease challenge

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

Contributor

THE SOLUTION is the region seems to be quite evident, but there is a big[illegible]and gap with apparently not enough effort...both from the medical community and the government—to narrow down the gap. Without meaning to diminish the significance of the other risk factors, we can achieve a breakthrough in our battle against CHD in our region by focusing on two risk factors, i.e. hypertension and smoking.

Awareness and control rates are still dismally inadequate in the region. In Cebu, for example, only one out of two hypertensive patients are aware that they are hypertensive. In the Philippines, only one out of 10 hypertensives are adequately controlled blood pressures.

The Japanese model should be an inspiration to other countries. The incidence of stroke has dramatically gone down over the last 40 years in Japan by respectively big proportions. We all know why Japanese are so[illegible] healthy foods, but by achieving a modest risk reduction in the general population, the stroke rate decreased impressively. It's sad that in most countries in the region, efforts at interventions to reduce salt in the population is inadequate and quite half-hearted. We see the same problem with efforts to conserve processed meat[illegible] to cut[illegible] and implement its reducing smoking.

I hope all the cardiologists and other physicians who will attend the 18th ACC convention in Cebu will all choose "Enough with all the empty oratory and unannotated plans for CVD prevention. Let's all unite and get to work!"

Those interested to attend the 18th Asean Congress of Cardiology in Lapu-Lapu can contact PBA projects, may call 687-7797, 470-5525, 478-5656 or e-mail them at secretariat@philheart.org.

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Sun and wind power this house

By Tonyl B. Salazar

HOW DO you lessen your carbon footprint within the confines of your home, especially if that house is loaded with eight air-conditioning units, a couple of flat-screen TVs, a microwave oven, washing machine, electric stove, refrigerators and a host of other appliances?

Look off-grid for your power source, pay up and breathe in. Use the sun and the wind. These are free, if you know just how to harness them. Businessman Ferdinand I. Raquelsantos knows just how, and now he's reaping the benefits.

Three years ago, Ferdie installed six solar panels (that could generate an equivalent of 1,200 watts) and a wind turbine (500 watts) on the roof of his 300-square-meter property at Ayala Alabang in Muntinlupa, practically giving him an extra 2,000 watts of free electricity. These power sources are counted in 12 batteries to store the electricity. Ferdie could use the extra power any time of the day or night, when needed.

With the wind turbine, Ferdie could even produce and store electricity at night, and even during stormy weather when the wind is strong.

Big drop in electric bill

The installation cost him P980,000 (for the solar panels, inverters and grid tie up system), while the wind turbine cost roughly P200,000. Ferdie's system is set up in such a way that he could roll up his conventional source of electricity from Meralco.

As a result of this, there was source of power, Ferdie was able to bring his monthly electricity bills down to an average of P8,000, a significant drop from his previous average bill of P18,000. At this rate, Ferdie estimates that he will recoup his installation expenses on the solar and wind power setup in 9 years. To increase power savings, Ferdie's household limits using appliances during Meralco's peak hours—from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

When Ferdie does recoup his expenses in the 9th year, he can expect years and years more of effective life from his solar panels. The effective life of a solar panel ranges from 25 to 40 years. A 500-watt solar panel on its 25th year would start degrading, and on its 40th year, the panel can only generate up to around 175 watts.

'Feels good'

Ferdie has expanded this knew-how to a business, and he now heads Solar and Wind Electric Power Inc. (https://newsourcepow.com/). He has helped provide panels for various corporations and even solar panels for vehicles.

Ferdie wants his clients not only to save money on power, but also to feel how "empowering" the feeling of being self-prid truly can be.

"The technology is interesting. When you're using renewable energy, it feels so good," he said.

To minimize his use of fossil fuels (gasoline and diesel), Ferdie has set up his own full electric vehicles (a car, van scooters and a bicycle), which he charges every morning before the peak Meralco hours, and rides them to take his son to school or to go to the office.

Even with solar panels and a wind turbine installed, Ferdie still actively observes the prudent use of appliances in his house.

The household does the laundry (washing machine and flat iron) from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. only. The swimming pool's filter pumps are turned on from 7 to 8 a.m. The air-conditioning stays off until 9 p.m. "Following the rules of our teachers you to be disciplined," Ferdie explained.

He is now saving his sights on the conserving potential of the rain. He has devised a way to collect rainwater for washing cars and watering plants, and is in the process of "fine-tuning" the system.

He just can't get enough of a good thing.

Are you a homeowner who has discovered or designed your own way of rising above the energy crisis? E-mail the author at realtorer@inquirer.com.ph)

Sorrento Oasis
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Bask in the refreshing charm of Sorrento Oasis, inspired by the quaint Italian town renowned for breathtaking sunsets and fragrant citrus groves.

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FERDIE's once-sunning gizmos provide 'shocking' benefits.

1016 RESIDENCES CEBU

Country club living at the heart of the city

By Emman Cura

CEBU CITY—Except Manila, none of the emerging cities could hold a handle to Cebu when it comes to dynamism that it has come to be known. The island province takes pride in its gorgeous beaches, rich culture and world-class hotel talents. All needs on the table, Ayala Land Inc. surely has all the aces up its sleeves and 1016 Residences is sure to give it a good play.

The mixed-use project of Ayala Land Premier, 1016 Residences, is a 27-story residential condominium to rise at the heart of Cebu Business Park in Cebu City, a few meters away from the Ayala Center. ALI officials said it is investing P1 billion for its first upscale high rise residential building that will cater to the upmarket segment.

For city dwellers trying to enjoy a country club lifestyle in the lap of luxury and with hill range access to retail, dining and recreational activities, 1016 Residences is the perfect place to be. The project will sit on a 2,400-square-meter property with a 900-sq m floor plate housing 100 units, 11 of which are special units will operate considerably like a private pool, private terraces and a garden. It will feature two-bedroom and three-bedroom units covering 98 to 197 sq m with prices ranging from P8 million to as high as P48 million for the select few special units.

Full access

Unit owners will also be given exclusive rights to the City Sports Club of Cebu, a membership community developed by affiliate Cebu Holdings Inc. With its full access to the CSCC and to Ayala Center Cebu, the developer highlights the convenience in the mixed-use aspect of the project.

ALI officials said the high-end residential project will break ground before the end of the year and is expected for completion in 2014.

The 1016 building will be uniquely designed by local and US-based group of architects and engineers who have done the same magnificent job in ALI's recent projects like the Park Terraces in Manila. Fostering eco-friendly and space, the high rise will follow the leisure-inspired building architecture and ambiance.

"The shape [of the building] is very unique. There will be units with views of either the sea or the mountains," Jose Emmanuel Lago, ALP senior division manager, said. As with other Ayala projects, 1016 Residences will be built on the "green" platform with efforts to ease on energy and reducing the overall carbon footprint. Enough, the use of eco-friendly materials and amenities. Among other features is the latest-type air-conditioning system that is expected to deliver 70 to 80 percent savings on energy and operational costs.

The name 1016 was taken from a good feng shui number combination that refers to the block (10) and lot number (16) where the high-rise will sit.

More aggressive play

True to its vision Ayala Land Premier—the extreme tie in vision company of Ayala Land's high-end property development division—is now going to give rise to a new development that not only signals a more aggressive play in the South, but sings true to the tenets that have made all of its projects fit for its market as well. ALP's reputation is backed by numerous signature projects that go above and beyond the lifestyle needs of its residents such as Montecito, Sanctuary, Bria Homes, Serendra and One & Two Roxas in Makati.

1016 Residences will put a geographical footprint in the Visayas and Mindanao region while widening the choices for condominium seekers.

"We are taking advantage of its prime location and vantage point to offer a unique and full range of retail, dining and recreational amenities," said Bobby Dy head of Ayala Land's Residential Business Group, in a roundtable meeting with the media last week.

The central idea is to condense a distinct lifestyle within the city's address of choice and will be further amplified and complemented by its design, which will take advantage of open spaces and landscaped views.

Because just are at the center of a huge manpower base of skilled, highly-educated and English proficient individuals, it is easier to recruit and keep the best employees who can provide the best service to guests of clubs and limit office operations.

Little notes, "The area attracts more quality employees. Our locators noted that it's easy to get manpower from these parts."

After all, a team of reliable and knowledgeable individuals delivering efficient business solutions is still the best way to attract and retain a wide client, who also gives you ample room for expansion as your growth and introduces new products and services in the future.

Connect to convenience

Connecting to manpower is enhanced even more with the completion of Skyway Stage 2 by May 2013. What used to be a lengthy travel from Makati to Alabang will effectively be reduced to an estimated 12 minutes on the Skyway. With Southgate's Cyberzone strategically at the fast of the exit ramp, it will be among the first to benefit from the expected surge of business in the south.

Northgate Cyberzone has been designed to be within easy reach of those coming from different parts of Metro Manila and beyond. Taking provinces. It is located at the gateway to the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) growth corridor and is accessible via five major converging roads (South Expressway, Alabang-Zapote Road, the old National Highway and the upcoming Skyway and Circumferential Road 04).

Commuting in and from Northgate Cyberzone is also carefree, free, is being a few minutes away from Alabang's several built, South Station. To ensure transit the clock operations, a 24/7 shuttle service to and from Northgate Cyberzone is available. This ensures potential convenience and accessibility anytime, any day of the week.

ENSURING exclusivity and space, the 27-story 1016 Residences will feature a leisure-inspired building architecture and ambiance.

"With Ayala Land leading their heritage and expertise in answering the living needs of Cebu's market, you can certainly expect our commitment to grow a new dimension of the exclusive Cebu lifestyle," he added.

Whether 1016 Residences will do good business or not is now out of the question.

Emilio Tumbocon, Ayala Land senior vice president for Visayas and Mindanao operations, told the media that the company's focus is in the condominium development is a clear manifestation of its confidence and commitment to giving the people of the Visayas region a luxurious living alternative right in a vibrant city.

Tumbocon said he sees no competition for 1016 as it is particularly drawing a specific market segment. "I don't think there's any thing that could match the physical in-a-feature of this project," he said.

ALP's Dy also added that as early as now people have already expressed interest in the project even before its pranding, as himself divulged he was eating an entree and make Cebu his home in the future.

'Judicial legislation'

COMMENTARY

Manuel M. Serrano

THE PRIVILEGE to change minds is not endemic to the future sex. Even the supreme magistrates of the highest court of the land do change their minds. And rightly so because occasionally, the Supreme Court sits and scientific does commit errors. After all, infallibility is an attribute of deity and not of mere mortals.

Take the case of the League of Cities of the Philippines vs Commission on Elevion (GR No. 176951, 177999, Aug. 24, 2010) which involves a number of municipalities desiring for cities. The commission denied their petitions and so they resorted to Butler Pazra summonsed and Sip-Bagged four cities that would put to shame an opening acrobat.

Common this with a recent case which affects not only a few cities but also the entire country. In the case of Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations Inc. (Cerba) vs The Secretary of Agrarian Reform (G.R. No. 183409, June 18, 2010), the Supreme Court's ruling was enunciated suddenly stood put on its error by refusing to entertain a second motion for reconsideration. Here, the Supreme Court gifted the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) with overwhelming authority that the law did not grant.

This unfortunate blooper not only affects landowners, real estate developers and the housing sector but also lends to public confusion over the pull and power of Congress to legislate laws pertaining to classification of urban lands that are suitable for housing under RA 7279; lands reclassified as economic under RA 7916 and lands identified as Strategic Hubzones and Development Zones under Republic Act 8435 by leading into the law what is not there.

Also, the invasive interpretation of the Supreme Court in this case instructed the legislative powers to grant government assignments to enact local zoning ordinances as well as presidential proclamations declaring certain areas as suitable for certain nonagricultural uses by imposing the requirements of a DAR clearance, as a result, landowners cannot now develop their properties for residential, commercial, industrial or other nonagricultural purposes even if they were already reclassified as such by the local Sanggunian and/or Congress without the further clearance from DAR.

Thanks to our high court, the spring becomes higher than the source. Among endangered legal species, undoubtedly, is formerly called "judicial legislation."

The affected parties can join the public debate on the sufficiency standard and judge for themselves if the Supreme Court's decision in this Cerba case can pass the higher bar of public opinion. While the Constitution makes the Supreme Court the final arbiter of disputes, nonetheless, in our republican state, sovereignty still resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them.

Manuel M. Serrano is the chair of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations Inc.

Locators find competitive leverage in Filinvest's Northgate Cyberzone

THE RULE of thumb for a successful business is to situate it in an ideal location, one that can result you to a competitive workforce, opportunities for enhanced growth and avenues for cost-effectiveness.

Real estate developer Filinvest provides just this through Northgate Cyberzone, an 18.7-hectare Pena-registered and master planned IT and BPO hub nestled in a vibrant live-work-play environment that is unique to Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang.

"Northgate Cyberzone's strategic location is a definite business advantage because it's just outside the already congested Makati and Ortigas areas," states Mabini B. Lim, vice president and project group head of Northgate Cyberzone.

CLEAN and green at Northgate Cyberzone

The influx of call center and other 24/7 operations in the country has made the Philippines the world's BPO mecca, second to India, causing the continuous increase in the demand for efficient connections central to offshore businesses.

Northgate Cyberzone, with its reliable 24/7 connectivity capability, ensures that your business enjoys uninterrupted connection. It boasts cost-effective intelligent buildings complete with all the tools of the trade: 100 percent backup power, wide availability of communication carri-ers, high bandwidth and fiber optic cables, high load power, and real-time connectivity options.

To more specific specs

CAMPUS LIKE setting at Northgate Cyberzone

(read: requirements, Northgate Cyberzone conceptualized its built-to-suit BPO locators which offer office spaces tailor made to suit your business specifications. With flexible designs and building parameters, you can effectively control your overhead expenses and increase productivity.

Economic advantage

And because Northgate Cyberzone is Peza-registered as an economic facilities enterprise, its tenants are given an economic and strategic advantage through tax incentives and other benefits.

On top of all these, Northgate Cyberzone (info@northgatecyberzone.com or www.northgatecyberzone.com), enjoys the dynamic character of Filinvest Corporate City, a model, class self-sustaining metropolis that offers all the elements that make for a rewarding lifestyle. Filinvest Corporate City is a residential haven, business central, leisure destination, medical and wellness hub and educational and entertainment progress-ive urban center.

Amid all these is Northgate Cyberzone, whose facilities are clustered in a refreshing campus-like setting, complete with lush greenery, open spaces, parks and parks, water and waterworks and flood free environs. This creates a relaxing environment, while making it easy for entering and future locators to accommodate future expansion and growth.

Not only your business in Northgate Cyberzone's vibrant and inspiring environment and you create a highly productive and skilled workforce. This will translate to better corporate performance and serve you miles in the competitive business landscape.

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NO BACK JOBS!*

Clean is green

A CLEAN city is where the quality of air is good, the water is potable, and the streets and parks are free of litter and garbage.

In a clean city, health and economic well-being are well maintained.

That means the populace knows how to handle waste. Recycling takes civic discipline and some profit. Green works well when it also results in green bucks.

Producing energy for industry, homes and transportation is being done in advanced countries. Aside from being expensive, this has to be planned and executed reasonably, and therefore needs regulation and control.

In addition, a green city looks cleanly as its transportation infrastructure of roads, rail, waterways and their impact on air quality, fuel savings and quality of life of the people.

A big challenge

Taken all together, clean energy sources, mass transit, waste control, recycling and various levels of administrative reorganization is a big challenge.

- **Brazil**

In Curitiba, Brazil, 70 percent of the trash is recycled with sorting into organic and inorganic waste done by residents at home and picked up by a fleet of brightly-colored trucks.

Poor residential areas unreachable by garbage trucks bring their waste to neighborhood centers in exchange for bus tokens and food.

- **United States**

San Francisco is heading in the use of clean-air vehicles, with its public transit system. It has over 700 electric drive vehicles, with plans to convert all the buses to clean-air technology by 2008.

The local government is promoting energy savings through a program that encourages residents to exchange their old strings of holiday lights for a free set of more efficient LED bulbs, courtesy of the city and Pacific Gas and Electric.

In Columbus, Ohio to major payload for redevelopment of brownfields or contaminated land, and a program to update the sewage and storm water system.

To improve depressed areas, Columbus removes graffiti within two days of its appearance. It involves different communities doing a total wash of concrete and cleanup every year, including trees trimming, bus/train painting, graffiti abatement, bulk trash pickup and litter removal.

In Halifax, Nova York, the state has a successful program to clean beaches and fish cement back in the sea, runway. Its award-winning waste-sorting of its garbage collection system is underway. It has at 12 high-tech street sweepers, deployed 24 hours a day during summer months to help keep the streets clear of trash. The big problem has been cooked by dutchboring bags, recently covered garbage bins to every residence.

In San Jose, California, industry has set higher standards for itself to solve the widespread pollution in the area.

Portland, Oregon has established a growth boundary around its urban center. Land within this area is open for development; outside the area there's only open space and farmland. The result is not only a well-preserved agricultural region just outside the city, but also a vibrant, livable urban area where public transportation rules.

- **Germany**

In Freiburg, Germany residents who generate electricity from renewable resources get paid for feeding power into the electrical grid, about 45 cents for each kilowatt hour they generate. In turn, the residents pay 20 cents for each kilowatt used.

Freiburg urges builders to incorporate green energy technology in construction projects. Builders who don't fully embrace "living green" may not get permits quickly.

The old issue: owner of Freiburg is car free, it is one extensive pedestrian zone of streets, squares and lanes.

A mix of regional and federal rail, linked to bus lines, encourages public transportation. Passengers can buy one ticket valid for all the private and public rail and bus operators.

What to do!

Perhaps we can adopt some good practices in other cities, and think of new ideas. Education on cleanliness is basic, and implementation needs political will. A system of rewards and penalties cannot fail. Many countries like Singapore emphasize penalties. Perhaps that is the only way to build cleanliness into our system for it to become part of our national character.

The incentives to cities can encourage them to be clean. Awards and citations for clean cities and exposure to mass media for those who violate the rules can be very effective.

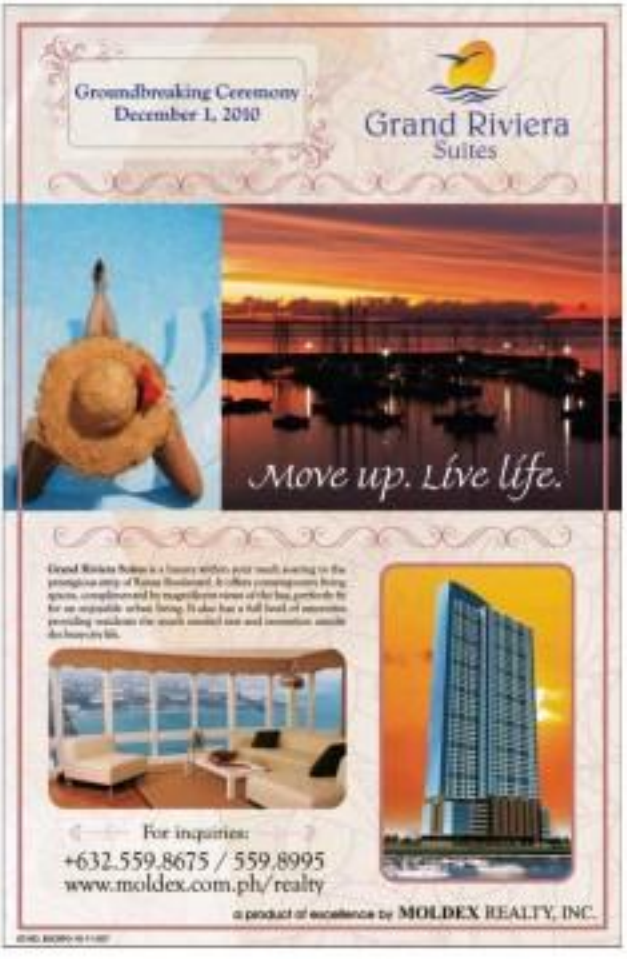
For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadeo.perez@gmail.com

IN FREIBURG, Germany, a combination of housing and parking garage functions as a noise-reduction barrier against the quiet zones of the city-center.

EDITOR'S NOTE

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amadeo de Jesus



ROCKING REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT AT NUMBER ONE ROCKWELL

For those who are considering investing in real estate, Number One Rockwell offers the ideal setup – higher rental yields, a hands on leasing office and accredited designers and contractors to help one create a desirable unit for lease.

In a study done by a third party property consultant, Rockwell investors have been getting rental yields higher than any residential condominium in Makati.

The Rockwell Lifestyle's Appeal to the Market

"We feel that the distinct lifestyle that Rockwell Center offers allows Rockwell unit owners to demand a higher rental rate compared to other developments. Tenants are drawn to Rockwell Center's self contained, lifestyle-loving concept, and we attract all types of people because of the diversity of the unit types available.

Number One Rockwell units offer unrivaled space and ingenious design

The age groups ranges from 25 to 60 and up, and we have expatriates, businessmen, students, retirees and starting Filipino families" said Angela Pagalayan, Senior Leasing Manager of Rockwell.

"In fact, units in the secondary market are still very much in demand, and capital values are expected to increase as the master plan of Rockwell Center is completed," Pagalayan added.

The 2-Loft at Number One Rockwell

An example of unit type innovation is the 2-loft from Number One Rockwell. It is the country's first 2-staged unit, an innovation by local architect Primordial, Burlington, Bonifacio & Partners, which provides breathtaking views from both sides of the building.

The 2-Loft at the newly completed Number One Rockwell

These units are nestled in five uniquely designed East and West Towers – structures that are both striking and opulent, from the landscaped plazas that welcomes residents at the entrance to the spectacular Sky Deck, which has stunning sunset views and lavish rooftop amenities.

The Convenience of Leasing at Rockwell

Pioneering unit sizes that suit different types of people and spectacular amenities are only the beginning. Also driving up the rental returns of Rockwell are two more Rockwell innovations – Leasing Offices to make renting less stressful and a highly recommended team of accredited designers and contractors to help make a unit more attractive to potential leasees.

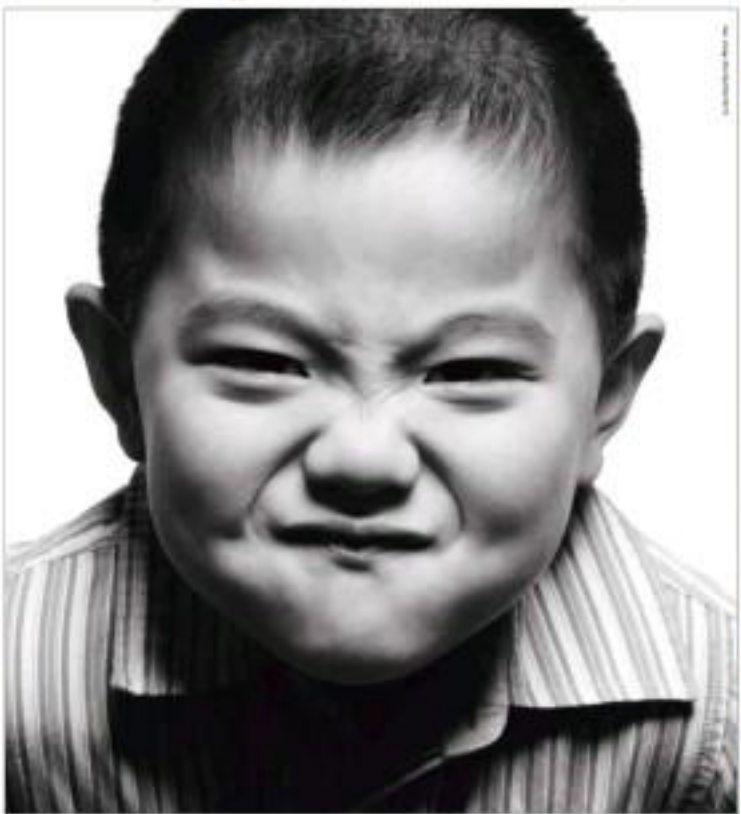
Rockwell's Leasing Team is highly accessible and available to attend to unit owners' and prospective tenants' needs, as each residential building maintains its own Leasing Office.

Leasing is made more convenient at Number One Rockwell

The Leasing Office also offers "post-lease services". These services include purchasing of items needed by the tenant after the lease is closed and coordination with the building's Property Management Office for various unit concerns. This is particularly valuable to unit owners based abroad, especially for those who do not have representatives in Manila to look after their property.

They also make it convenient for potential unit owners and tenants to find their perfect unit. "Viewing of units may be done even without prior notice as the unit keys are with us. They also have direct contact with our unit owner which results to faster negotiation and closing," said Pagalayan.

Interested unit owners and tenants can reach the Number One Rockwell Office by calling 751-0385.



ROADTALK Saturday
LIFE DEFINED BY THE ROADS WE TAKE

Raising future Formula heroes

Manila-based Mark Goddard talks about the challenges in grooming race champions

Text and photos by Alvin Uy

A CHANCE visit to Macau for the 57th Macau Grand Prix gave this writer a chance to catch up with Mark Goddard, a familiar name in the Philippine motorsports scene.

Goddard is an experienced racecar engineer, team a highly successful Asian Formula 3 team called Team Goddard and owns a race company called Formula Motorsports.

Formula had a partnership before with a Formula One team, Jaguar, as Team Minardi back in 2004-2005 and currently has a contractual partnership with Italian racer Edoardo Piscitelli, part-owned by former F1 champion, Emi Raikkonen. Although he is still based in Manila, Goddard frequently travels all over Asia to manage his racer team and mentor promising and aspiring Formula drivers through his "racer and driver" race program.

Formula Motorsport and Team Goddard offer young but promising race drivers or the Toyota International Circuit in Malaysia with its Formula BMW and Formula 3 cars. Under the pro-am race setting, it gives drivers crucial practice runs and confidence in preparation for the Formula BMW Pacific Series, fields front running the 2010 Formula BMW team and driver championships, as well as the Rookie Cup, they have the 2006 Asian Formula Three team and driver champions and the 2007 Formula BMW Asia Rookie Cup titles under their belt. The single make Formula races like what BMW has is a good stepping stone for young and promising drivers after they have done some competitive karting.

Formula promotes what they call as "series and drive" program where the driver basically has a whole team already and he just has to show up for practice and the actual race. According to Goddard, the initial cost to race for a season is 145,000 Euros plus pre-season testing fees and accident damage. The cars are insured so the drivers pay the first 1,500 Euros as participation for the damage cost for each accident, except in cases where it goes up to 5,000 Euros. The seasonal cost on top of the race is shouldered by the insurance.

RACING under the Pinoy flag is Formula driver Renaro Salcedo.

"Contrary to popular belief, race teams do not make huge profits. At this budget we are lucky to break even. The cost we incur include entry fees, tires, brake pads, lubricants, engines, clutches, gears and cost on the car, wages, flights, hotels, transportation, firefighting cars and equipment around Asia, food and beverage are barely covered without taking into account investment in cars, tools and equipments," laments Goddard.

Japanese races for PH

One Filipino driver Renaro Salcedo, who incidentally is racing under a Philippine flag finished eight overall in the championship. A good start, considering he only got into competitive karting a couple of years back. Salcedo is a Japanese national who started racing when he was 13 but for a too young to get a racing license in Japan. He applied for a license in the Philippines under SAF and has been racing the series using the Philippine flag. All these Formula drivers have one thing in common: they have highly supportive fathers with loaded wallets to make sure they are well financed to maximize their full potentials. His rookie driver Richard Bradley also bagged the 2010 Formula BMW Pacific Championship and Rookie of the Year while one of his other drivers, Meiyanlim Nabil Jeffri, has engaged the coaching services of former F1 driver Alex Yoong.

When asked how Formula promotes itself to potential drivers, Goddard replied: "We use the internet, mailing scores to potential drivers and through our web site. Potential drivers also look at the winning teams and often approach us." In a race team, the organization that provides them is possibly the most important factor in getting business. It is sad to note that in PH, the Asian Formula 3 has helped several Filipino drivers to race are gone race and there is really no concerted help for them. Most of the good Filipino drivers are not around anymore since the cost of continuing from Formula 3 to Formula 1 racing is quite hard to sustain without the backing of sponsors.

MARK Goddard (right) with ACC-BMW Philippines PR Paz Gonzales.

The Formula BMW Pacific ran six races in 2010 with the Macau leg as the season ending race. The sprawling grounds of Macau have been legendary. Many talented and famous drivers have been spotted at Macau on the earlier years of their career including - the late Ayrton Senna, Michael Schumacher, Mika Hakkinen and, more recently, Robert Kubica, who was noticed by BMW Motorsport Director Mario Theissen, leading to his Formula 1 career. Aside from the opportunity to shine in Formula 3 in the Macau GP, the race also provides the much needed experience in the cobblestone street circuit of Macau. The last race weekend was no different, as crashes and accidents were the order of the day for most of the races.

Change is Powerful

The force of the Dual VVT-i engine is now found in all variants of Toyota Corolla Altis.

The new Toyota Corolla Altis throws in a staggering change that will definitely blow you away – all variants boast of a Dual VVT-i engine that will surely give you higher power, exceptional fuel efficiency, and lower exhaust emissions that can harm the environment. Not to mention, its revamped look and modified interior will definitely leave you in awe. Change is always exciting. Experience the thrill first hand, experience the new Toyota Corolla Altis.

THE NEW COROLLA ALTIS
DUAL VVT-i

TOYOTA
Driving Forward

Chevrolet goes full throttle with back-to-back wins in PPCC

THE RACE of the season was held recently at racing enthusiasts, fans and press gathered at the Batangas Racing Circuit for the 2010 Philippine Production Car Championships.

From out of the blue, Chevrolet stole the title fight.

Last Dec. 22-23, Chevrolet broke boundaries on the racetrack as the Chevrolet RSE Team, driving the Chevy Cruze PETC, captured two third-place finishes on Saturday and two first place finishes on Sunday with Cyrille Perbiles, RSE's Race Car Driver.

The spectacular weekend showing sent Chevrolet RSE soaring to second in the overall standings of the PPCC race series. Most importantly, it gave the team a clock at the championship trophy going into the final leg of the race series in January 2011.

The outstanding win of Chevrolet can only be deemed as remarkable as this is Chevy's first debut to the fast and competitive circuit of the Chevrolet Cruze.

The Cruze was launched last February and being a new platform, this year is still considered a developmental year for the team and its partners.

Also noteworthy, is that Chevrolet has the Cruze PETC as the only car category in its assembly stable.

"We at RSE are very proud to be part of the Chevrolet team. This is a first for RSE, developing the systems needed for the unit and we went to thank Chevrolet Philippines for letting us be part of this great opportunity. The instant landmark was the status behind this victory and we are grateful to everyone who worked hard for it. This is a new season for Chevy and for RSE and we look forward to many more races to come," said RSE founder/President "Turbo" Blanco.

"To come to the center and win in our first ever season is a remarkable achievement," said lawyer Glenn Arcilla, chief operating officer of The Covenant Car Company Inc. "For me owning the Chevrolet Cruze leading all the other cars out there is an immense source of pride, and gives Chevrolet something truly unique. The new Cruze has reached its excellent level of competitiveness, thanks to an extraordinary team effort and the significant progress achieved since the new car's debut in the Philippines just last February. Congratulations to our Chevrolet and RSE for making this happen."

The Cruze PETC is a manufacturers backed entry for the Philippines that is presented by Chevy Motorsports Program in partnership with Blanco Race Engineering, A Toy Body kit, Evasive, MJ Autovibes, Dajeon Paint , Concepts Duo wheels, Mars Tint, Hawk oils , Secure racing seats, Momo pedals and steering wheel, Turbo Lagin Power Plowing, Asian Plus, Ryonan clothing, Fuzbee Graphics, Nanoweld, Leader Lasers.

CYRILLE Perbiles, Chevrolet RSE driver, holds high the first place trophy.

TEAM Chevrolet cheers on the Cruze PETC as it races down the finish line at the PPCC race series 2B id.

FROM left: Bel Lasercia, marketing manager for TCCCI; Francisco "Paeho" Blanco, founder of RSE; Arby Arellano, Chevy Motor Sports director, and proudly beside the winning car, the Chevy PETC Cruze, during the PPCC Race Series.

THE PETC Cruze crosses the finish line and sweeps the first win for Chevrolet.

THE Chevrolet PETC grabs the lead as it overtakes competitors during the PPCC race.

Preserve your transmission system with Motul fluid

DID YOU know that transmission fluid should be changed according to manufacturer recommendations every 20,000 to 30,000 miles? Elevated transmission temperatures can destroy all lubricating properties of a fluid within a few hundred miles, which is no doubt why the transmission. Why spend than much to repair your transmission?

Motul's specially engineered ATF 1A and Multi ATF transmission fluid last 10 times longer, prevent to reduce heat and keep sensitive components free from harmful deposits. These three things ensure longer lasting, more reliable, smoother shifting transmissions. ATF 1A delivers superior friction tests for high torque capacity and has excellent anti-shudder qualities. While ATF 1A ensures smoother shift feel as well as superb shear stability, developed from the track for street use, Motul's transmission fluid guarantees protection from cavitation, oxidation, rust, foaming and improves lubricity, positive traction at cold temperatures.

For those who demand a little more from their cars, Motul's synthetic based Multi-ATF lubricant is particularly recommended for use in automatic gearboxes of American car markers such as GM, Ford, Chrysler or import car makers Hyundai, Kia, Mitsubishi or Subaru. It is also recommended for use to preserve older automatic gearboxes, torque converters, power steering, front/reverse gears, hydrostatic transmission, mechanical and hydraulic systems where a Dexron/Mercon V/Ford Mercon fluid is required.

"These fluids guarantee longer life-time, better shear stability at hot temperature and oxidation resistance. Use it to prove it," said Pacho Blanco of RSE Race Engineering.

For details on how to protect and preserve your transmission and steering system, call 353-2170; 0999 or e-mail at motul@sanyo.com.ph.

AEROKLAS wins the Best Booth Display award. Holding the trophy is Celine Lee, product head of TSL Marketing.

Aeroklas launched at Manila Auto Salon

TO SEE it to believe, is one thing. But for the people behind Aeroklas, giving prospective customers the chance to experience what they're claiming it is something else.

At the recent Manila Auto Salon held at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, TSL Marketing Corp not only launched Aeroklas in a grand fashion but also put their latest recent product on a daring roadshow test.

Sky holding the Aeroklas Challenge, consumers were given the chance to break one of the featured products, the deck cover, with a mallet to test its toughness. At the end of the four-day event, no one was able to dent or even scratch the product. There were no signs of damage on the deck cover, proving that Aeroklas products are heavy-duty and rigid even in the most unusual circumstances.

Aeroklas' deck cover is made from the same engineered polymers that the aerospace industry uses. Other featured products include the bed liner, styling bar and utility box.

Aeroklas is a leading car and parking [illegible] recognized in the third and second tier world by leading automotive manufacturers, car dealerships and the after market here. Their product line-up includes bed liners, canopies, deck covers, styling bars and utility boxes catering to indoor pick-up trucks available in the markets. All accessories are produced to world-class standards.

Aeroklas does not only produce top of the line products, but they also practice environmentally responsible and socially responsible products. The bed liner is one of Aeroklas' products that have been given the "Green Label Award". It is made of premium grade high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and has double layer of UV resistance. Moreover, Aeroklas uses composite dunnel bolt that is considered standard quality from the Thailand Automotive Institute for its toughness, durability, anti-rust and recyclability.

Aeroklas is available in various car dealerships and aftermarket dealers nationwide. For inquiries, you may contact TSL Marketing at 519-3128 to 29 or e-mail inquiry@aeroklasgroup.com.

Ortigas Home Depot hosts Old School Car Club bash

DESPITE the "Seven Year Itch" the Oldschooler Auto Club holds its seventh anniversary bash on the lot grounds of Ortigas Home Depot Complex. The place has fast become a place for holding auto shows and car club gatherings, fondly called "ERV" or "eyeball events".

With its expansive parking and mid-clustered orientation and host to the weekly flea market activities, the open-air bazaar open car park gatherings of the 1980s where car enthusiasts gather together in one mixed parking lot to showcase their cars and trinkets are reported to mingle with the car owners, have their photos taken beside their rarely seen cars. Unlike most car shows, these cars will not be cordoned off and visitors can view them up close.

Last August, the Old School Club members had a most-anticipated get-together with Francois Ut hosted by Top Gear Philippines and ESPN Star Sports Motor Show. Motor was here in Manila on tour to promote the Singapore Grand Prix on the same weekend, where he met several classic car owners and enthusiasts and was treated to a blast from the past as over 100 old school classic cars were showcased in the open parking grounds of Ortigas Home Depot Complex. Shaw, who claimed to admire car enthusiasts and an amateur motorist, was visibly amazed by the variety of iconic rarely seen old school cars still running today. He took particular attention to a very rare 1971 Opel GT restored by Project Dashish was one of the Grand Invitee.

Aside from Oldschooler Auto Club, other clubs which joined in the event were Classic Auto Club, Ford Escort Club, Oldschools South, Grupo Stratos, Pony Racing, Carbrixx, Silent Lancer Ph, Pampanga Oldschooler Auto Club, Cavite Auto Club and Oldschool Philippines. Organized by Carshow Technical and Planning Chairman of the Old Schooler Auto Clubs, the highlights of the show included showcase competition, car and model photo shoot, underwall film shooting of classic and muscle cars. Rare and EH stunts and other entertainment numbers provided by the street band and TV personality Mercedes. Show sponsors include Cubao Depot, Grand Prix Honda and ALPS Auto Components.

Isuzu Challenge concludes with D-Max leg

ISUZU PHILIPPINES Corp. has officially wrapped up its 2010 Isuzu Challenge fuel-economy series with the successful staging of the third and final leg for its D-MAX pickup. The first two legs had showcased the RHR truck and the Crosswind AUV respectively. For the final leg, a unit of the D-MAX was tested on 11.84-liter (liter) (or a fuel-economy rating of 24.26 kilometers per liter. The vehicle took off from Matnog, Sorsogon, and passed through the provinces of Gubat and Bicol State before finally reaching out of fuel in Barangay San Isidro in Pamplol, Tarlac.

The Isuzu Challenge is part of the "Isuzu Fuel Wisdom," a year-long promotional campaign that aimed to demonstrate the fuel-efficiency and environment-friendliness of Isuzu vehicles. One of the main components of Isuzu Diesel Mission was the "Isuzu Pantawid Misyon," a series of events that included 4x4 driving clinic, mall tours, rides and service caravans, and the of environment-used Isuzu Challenge.

In each leg of the Isuzu Challenge, a specified Isuzu vehicle was driven using only a single tank of Caltex Diesel with Techron D. The public was then challenged to guess the total distance that each vehicle would travel. The contestant who submitted the right answer (or at least the figure closest to the right answer) was declared brand-new unit of the Isuzu vehicle featured in the leg.

For the D-MAX leg, Jessie Lyn Tiongson Villanueva of Santa Cruz, Manila, submitted first the exact total-mileage figure, thus winning for herself a cash prize. Second-place D-MAX. The second-place guess was submitted by Eddy Tinsay Caipod of Ruiza, Batangas, who was rewarded with a Isuzu Sportz 4x4 with LED HID Tail. The third-place figure came courtesy of Ace Galindo Montevalles of San Isidro, Northern Samar, who bagged for himself a Crosswind XUV with 6-speed manual.

"I am confident that other three legs of the Isuzu Challenge, we have been able to convince the commercial-vehicle market that Isuzu vehicles are truly fuel-efficient," said IPC president Syuji Yamasaki. "Our hope and we also showed that our vehicles are very much compatible with Philippine roads. Their legendary durability is what makes them very popular, most especially among overseas Filipino workers, who value their hard-earned money down to the last peso."

In the first leg of the Isuzu Challenge held in May, an 18-ton, light-duty truck was a total of 871.4 kilometers from Dagupan to Naga City, and Aurelio Alcon Fernandez won a new NHR, and by submitting a close guess of 965.5 kilometers.

In the second leg held in July, a Crosswind XL unit traveled a total of 1,199 kilometers from Cauayan, Isabela, all the way to Quezon province in Southern Luzon. By route of the of good fortune, Ryan Dexter Pinpin Dizon reportedly garnered the most mileage, and won for himself a brand-new Crosswind.

In addition to the mentioned prizes, all runners-each received coupons from participating Foreign goods dealers.

The main sponsors of the Isuzu Challenge were Caltex Diesel with Techron D and Foreign Assn. It was supported by JFC, AVT Center Manufacturing Corp., Home Depot, SmartBind, Mandaue-Jaya Branch Export, Blondie Pizza Corp., and Magnolia Fruit Drink Health-Tea Beverages.

The media partners were The Philippine Star (88FM-DZSI, 558kHz), DWIZ (882kHz), Juan (89.3), Wave (89.1), Magic (89.9), Motion Touch (94.7), Crossover (105.1), DWRU (100.3), Home Radio (97.5), MOWell (105), DWRT (99.5), and Blue (101.1).

IPC executives and Isuzu Challenge (IC) winners pose during the culminating party. From left: IPC EVP Jordan Balmaceda, IPC EVP Yuta Kato, IC DMAX leg winner Arnaldo Sison Fernandez, IC Crosswind leg winner Ryan Dexter Pinpin, IC D-MAX leg winner Jessie Lyn Tiongson, and IPC president Syuji Yamasaki.

Introducing The New Bridgestone **TURANZA GR-90**

PREMIUM TOURING

MAXIMIZED COMFORT
The GR-90 is optimized for an unprecedented experience in supreme ride comfort, road-handling smoothness and low-noise characteristics. Intelligently designed rounded corners combined with ideal construction rigidity provide superior handling over a wide range of roads.

EXTREME QUIET
Noise is usually caused by vibration from contact with road surfaces, but thanks to the TURANZA GR-90's superior noise-reduction technologies and dampening design, this premium tire offers a smoother, quieter ride.

ENHANCED SAFETY
The ultra-efficient tread design featuring rows of low and high angle winding grooves and flexible construction deliver outstanding traveling dynamics and better water dispersion, leading to high levels of safety and comfort.

TURANZA GR-90

RELIABLE PERFORMANCE AND COMFORT

To provide the highest level of ride comfort, stability and control, the **TURANZA GR-90** is backed by a wide range of technologies designed to **reduce vibration and noise reduction** on many types of road surfaces.

SILENCE TECHNOLOGIES
Silent AE-Block*
Noise-Reduction Grooves*

ASYMMETRICAL TECHNOLOGIES
Asymmetrical Tread Pattern
Asymmetrical Form

A PREMIUM TOURING EXPERIENCE

The TURANZA concept — "THE MARK OF PRESTIGE"— is about taking a routine trip and transforming it into a touring experience every time. Whether for drivers that stay in the city, or drivers that take long drives, this brand can transform an ordinary ride into a enjoyable journey.

It's the feeling of being liberated while driving and enjoying with absolute confidence full control over the road and beyond, almost to the point that you realize your intended destination is less important than the journey there. Take a moment to imagine you are driving with your family, and you are enjoying conversation or simply listening to music.

And after a long drive, you arrive at your destination but you still have energy to spare. You feel relief from the stress and stress of daily life. It is a moment where you are released from the ordinary.

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Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing Editor Rod Cabal
E-mail: lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Yellow pad hotline: inquirer.net/yellowpad or 4851

Global *Filipina*

Veronica Kirzhner—a Jewish Filipina—puts passion in anything she does, including her style

By Carles Concepcion
Contributor

"TSOUZ" is a Judaic word I really hate to use; it is overly used and almost cheesy. But for this subject, I cannot find a better word. 25-year-old fashion shoe designer of the brand Dolce Vita, Veronica "Vy" Kirzhner is Jewish.

Of Filipino-Jewish origins, Vy is born to a family of fashion designers. She wanted to stay away the lines of what the rest of her family was doing, yet still a little different—thus shoe design.

She is a graduate of the FIT major in accessories (shoes/bags/jewelry) and used to be the designer for international brand Dolce Vita. She is based in New York, roaming out her collections room by the likes of Charlize Theron and Jessica Simpson, to mention a few celebrities on her clientele.

Being a shoe designer is only one

GLOBAL 12

citibank

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The most rewarding cards in town.

Ruslan's SHOPWISE Mercury Drug

Take a bow

Be ahead of the trend (Fashionista) silhouettes with bow sleeves and bishop sleeves.

Beige lace skirt, Bayo; white sleeveless dress (also shot), Mango; beige heels and lace vest, and multicolored scarf, both from Promod; gold dangling earrings, and silver rings, all from Parfois; gold diamante bracelet, and brown socks, both from Forever 21; beige leather ankle boots, Aldo

Vested interest

Wear it by vest, you can wear it anywhere!

Pink gold beige floral dress, Mango; beige cable knit vest, Terranova; multi-layered chain necklace, Forever 21; brown and gold bracelets, bracelet, Rubel; mixed media bangles, Parfois; Sperry Topsider shoes, Promod

High and mighty

Balance the proportion of a billowy blouse with high-rise skirts.

Peach paisley chiffon blouse, Mango; beige scarf, Terranova; gray knit vest, Bayo; peach lace leather skirt, The Bang; chain necklace, accessories; gold pendant necklaces and silver rings, all from Parfois; beige leather tote bag, Promod

'70's chic

Embrace the age of free spirit by donning paisley and floral prints in earthy colors

Pattern play

Make sure not to mix "Mondrian by mixed dressing principle" prints.

Cream sequined tank top, Mango; gray cable knit vest, Bayo; cotton printed skirt, Bang & Zara; gold dangling earrings, price tbc; diamante necklace, gold bracelet as belt, and multi-colored leopard-print tote, all from Parfois; brown suede boots, Aldo

Shop directory

Accessorize G/F Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati City
Aldo 2/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City
Bayo 3/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City
Forever 21 2/F Mega Mall Building A, Megan Center, Pasig City
Mango 2/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City
Mango G/F Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City
Parfois 2/F Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City
Promod 2/F Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati City
Rubel 2/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City
Tanga G/F Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City
Terranova 2/F Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City
TBC G/F Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City

Global Filipina

From page C1

pair of artist makes Ivy so special. A multi-faceted creative explorer and an antiquarian, she immerses herself in different crafts, whether through her photos, writing, and music (she is currently researching an album).

If you think she is just another "shaker" with no many job descriptions, you only have to view and read her work (check out her blog!). You see the passion and consummate she puts into every single picture, every word, and every design she creates. These provide inspiration for the rest of us.

Ivy's work has been described as provocative—a fusion of the old and new world—and a challenge to the norms we even love ourselves before.

The last conversation I had with her, she wanted on being more local designers into the New York scene. She believes, "now" is every Filipina's time.

Style profile

Style icons: Ines de la Fressange, Grace Jones, China Machado, Audrey Hepburn

Best style advice given: "Never stop reinventing yourself, but try not to reinvent the wheel or anything that already works perfectly."

What is your go-to outfit on lazy days?

My Mark Ameen zipped leggings, white harem shorts burning that's belted high at the waist, and a pair of combat boots. Oh, and a tuxedo from my hunt of course!

What is the soundtrack of your style?

It would probably be a fusion of World Music with a hint of old French.

Is there really such a thing as bad style?

I think bad style spawns from just having poor taste or the lack thereof.

What is the worst style statement of your life?

Whenever I feel like I'm physically out of shape. Being stylish is also having a mindset that runs deep into your overall well-being.

What trend should go?

Just the word "trend" should go!

What are your cheap wardrobe updates?

Going through your mom's closet and finding a nice statement piece from 20 years ago. She'll lend it to you if you ask nicely. (Laughs)

What are your tips on vintage shopping?

This never called. Heroes to Stella has the best old world storage items that will take you back through time!

As a shoe designer, what would be your pet-peeve in shoe design?

Any shoe! (Laughs) Ah, that's how this industry stays alive so it cannot be helped.

What is New York's biggest style influence on you?

I'm influenced by the diversity and the celebration of ethnic origins. I started looking deep into my own native origins, as well as others, and I have started incorporating a lot of cosmic elements into my wardrobe. I love mixing prints and textures, from like prints and khakis together to Mediterranean dresses.

Who would be your wearer dressed celebrity?

Courtney Love, she can make the most demure and sophisticated clothes look so trashy, but that's what I love about her.

Who is your muse?

Isabel Toledo. Show me something new that will not remind me too much of her LA cookie-cutter wife persona and she has influenced your style the most?

I like anything that a old British Edwardian-themed. I love the men's fashion back in the day with their military band coats, jodphurs and riding boots.

Is fur or not to fur?

I'll never wear a cuddly yet exchanged polar bear.

Do you have any advice on aspiring designers who wish to move to the big city?

There's nothing holding you back, but your own self.

Mt. Manipan, Spain: Printed romper by Bebe Filo; shoes by Bimba Lozoya

Paris Gard Spain: Peasant top by (80's vintage leather belt, embroidered skirt) by Chloé; bracelet (center) by Dolce Vita

Lower East Side, Manhattan: Dress by Free Market, glasses by Retro Vera

Lower East Side, Manhattan: Vintage Salid vest, T-shirt by Helmut Lang, military boots by Dolce Vita

My love at first sight

From page C1

lenses is perfect. You can zoom in and out to examine the details of the photos, as if you are touching the magazine, but only better about the pages are interactive.

When you view the virtual magazines, it is like reading in a "Harry Potter" movie, the photos are moving! Check out Wired magazine to experience this magical sight.

There is also an application called Flipboard. Twitter, Facebook and other social sites are turned into magazine-style. It is a visual explosion as friends' Facebook pages, photos and shout-outs turn into your personal magazine.

Accessory shopping

I was my chameleon sister, but with my iPad replacing a boyfriend's hand, it seemed spruicing up my iPad was a no brainer. I clothed the iPad in variety of cases, once in a killer Bangha red patent croc skin only to be replaced by an orange-lemonade-type leather case. I even chose to buying Ted's blue cow leather iPad case.

I recently acquired BookBook at Power Mac Center. It hides your iPad in this vintage book cover. I would sometimes store it on our bookshelves at home, sliding comfortably next to the Encyclopedia Britannica, camouflaging the iPad.

I've also purchased the camera connector kit, and the Apple Bluetooth keyboard, which I can both use for work. I would often bug the people at Power Mac Center for new accessory deliveries for the iPad. Now, I plan to buy a stylus for my notetaking, and anti-fingerprint and anti-glare that gives protection too.

Just a few days ago, I was up until 2 a.m. (10 a.m. Pacific Time) with a lot of iPad users waiting for the big iOS 4.2.1 update. It was such an epic thing like waiting on HBO's big reveal for its Lisbon collaboration.

The iOs 4.2.1 app didn't disappoint, it enabled the iPad to have cool multitasking functions, among many other things it can do. It was similar to the features of the iPhone 4.

The last love exerted to I had my iPad, it was never a love-hate relationship. I'm still madly in love with it. There was never a dull moment. It made me discover new ways to make my life easier, even the mundane task of checking e-mails became a breeze.

It connected me to the things I liked—videos, magazines, books and writing. It made me also look forward to exciting things—new applications and new accessories.

Some people say who needs an iPad, it's just like a big cell phone. But I think it is a category and new invention on its own.

Back then I thought that Nikkimm was already revolutionary, then Steve Jobs introduced the iPad. He was able to make every single person on this planet own an iPad. My Amazon grandparents even have it. Her Majesty the Queen has it.

iPad is a category on its own. In a few years, I'm pretty sure everyone will have his/her own iPads.

Literally, everything you can think about entertainment is possible with a touch of the screen. One can watch TV series and movies, read magazines, play games, and listen to music and global radio. One can stay socially connected anywhere and receive news and videos in real time.

I wouldn't mind to be seen in public with my iPad. I can safely say it was love at first touch with my iPad.

My love at first sight

By Stef Cabal

STATIONARY: style cop styles for iPad and iPhone

While I never a techie so I paused up the chance to buy an iPad when it was launched in HK late July 23.

As if serendipitously, I was at City Plaza Shopping Center. I saw the swarm of people in the Apple store, collectively ooh-ing on the latest and coolest gadget. It was cold out in summer!

I stood in front of them and loudly raved about the commotion.

I moved on to my real shopping quest—to find the perfect shoes.

What started out as an incalculable desire for a Kindle, because I wanted to read books, magazines and newspapers, conveniently any time, anywhere—led me to my iPad, thanks to the convincing powers of my gadget-obsessed friend.

To this day, I don't regret the decision of having a 32GB, WiFi, Okay. I did. I should have gotten the 64GB iPad instead.

I might adore every bit of my iPad, even if I'm no techie. I'm like the characters of Tolkien, the moon, in "Modern Family," who is clueless about anything techno. Like there, I struggle with its tech runnels vocab. But see with the iPad, it's redundant. Intuitive.

If there was a must-have core, I assume this is how it goes for my iPad. "It have and hold could drench do no pain." I haven't let go of my iPad ever since I had it.

While I'm still preppy from shop, the iPad is the first thing I grab in the morning. I wake up to the lovely chirp of bells (thanks on a related day, and to an Air Soft siren on a hurried day with an important appointment).

The iPad is the last thing I hold before I drop. I type it at bed use, beside my night lamp—a lovely display of it's digital clock in on the Night Stand application.

Brain addiction

A courtesy of habit, I routinely check my plants and crops, if they are ready for harvesting from iPad's Mr. Baks and Mr. Farm apps. I check if my friends are calling out for a new mushroom shelter, or if they are safe from Gangsters. Or if my mother-in-law are ready for delivery and the tomato have paid taxes in Pet City.

I'm equally excited if I had new coins, new gifts, or if I leveled up, and if I can build a new building with all those cool applications.

I feel like an iPad alien has wired a new neural connection to my brain. When I'm stressed, I take it out on my iPad. I go on a zombie killing spree with Plants vs Zombies, and relax to the Tunein radio, which connects to any local radio station in the world.

I thought I would never get hooked to other apps either, but the addiction only became stronger.

My first ever iPad game was GodFinger. I had many sleepless nights plotting evil to the planet Stinks. I wanted the planet after my dog's, taking and increasing followers and mana, and working on my god skills.

My only problem was, though, was never to bring my iPad to work and let it get in the way of work, just like I wouldn't want to bring my boyfriend to work. Such social pleads be a detention. It's unprofessional.

But spending late nights at work would make me feel guilty too, as I come home to plants talking, restaurant food spoiling, missing my deliveries and to my GodFinger followers tired, hungry and dying of heat. The beauty, luckily, we can always analyze our sins.

Working it

I tried once to use it for work, the result turned out quite positive. I was able to write few articles through Apps. Pro-version of Word choice quick and extremely my articles via e-mail and Dropbox.

In one shoot, all my visual prep went over from the iPad. And instead of the photographer checking the photos from his camera and TV screen, everybody up to the iPad to his camera and I was able to check the photos in real time, as it was photographed.

On the Ship Roll, with just a light tap of the screen, all the fashion and lifestyle blogs and news sources are within my reach—I can easily name you my top 10 fashion iPad and business, but that's for another article. I can listen to and read, to where I would like to receive my news first from.

The iPad is also the perfect way to kill boredom during my commute and the perfect remedy for last-to-do-before during delayed flights and boring clients.

I immerse myself in videos, magazines and books (iBooks supports Amazon's Kindle). And did I mention a good date for late lunch, love time?

My love of magazines is immeasurable. I thought I would never invest in online magazines since they could never be close to the real thing.

But I did subscribe to SQ, Vogue Nippon and Elle décor. I can carry all those magazines in my bag, view, edit, on my light iPad, which weighs 1.5 pounds (that's how light it is!).

The photos are crisp and clear, the resolution is so good that I can't tell the difference between the iPad and the real thing.

I'm sure I'll be a lot more in love with my iPad when I get the iPad 2 with the camera, but I'm not complaining.

I now enjoy life with my iPad and I'm not even a techie

Check out iPad accessories on Shoppe Mine (cover) located at 2/F Room 3 Rm 2, Rockwell, 2/F Lobby Unit 2, Ayala Center, B.F. Homes, QC

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Shangri-La Plaza

I took a gastronomic tour of Binondo –just to test a deodorant

Oh, the delicious smells of Chinatown

By Anneliz S. Tayao

TWO INCESS ago, I found myself walking the busy Manila streets while downing lumpia, hopia, dumplings, siopao, tsaotse—in short, the whole Chinese restaurant menu—after receiving unsupervised deodorant.

To test how effective Rexona Clinical Protection (100 Breath) for emotions, the media was invited to Old Manila Walks' Big Binondo (Need Pink Tour, only "sweet smiles" beat this by a mile).

The tour was a four-hour Chinese lunch—and a walking history class on Chinatown.

The tour kicked off in front of Binondo Church. Soon, the forty tourist surnames on what we had striped masks on since the night before. (Because apparently just on the first night before, after a shower, Chinese soil seeping again after taking a bath) But stunning, to see it all donned 49-hour protection indeed worked!)

Dy had whipped out his controller mic, speaker—and automatically began to explain the significance of 100 Breath, complete with crisp to-the-mind.

"In the 1500s, the colonial government actively encouraged the Chinese to come into our city, to trade their goods—silk, porcelain, etc. So, they did come here, in such large numbers that they began to dilute the colonial government," said Dy. "To counter the number of Chinese coming into the city, the solution was to create 10 districts."

A quaint, Art Deco building was our first stop, where we had our first bite of authentic Chinese dish—lumpia. Each hand-rolled piece was stuffed with veggies, noodles, seaweed and some meat. Dy taught us the proper way of eating the lumpia: with two drops of suka plus one drop of calamansi.

It's good to a tasty after-school casserole, and the building, with its quiet ambiance, can become a evening place after a long day.

For us, though, the day was just starting as Dy headed us off to sample siopao in a nearby specialty bakeshop. Literally meaning "pork cake," siopao originally came in two flavors: sweet and asado (pork). But because Pinoys like to "Filipinize," one can find more than 10 different flavors of siopao in Binondo alone.

Personal favorites

Dy's restaurant stops are his personal favorites. A block away from Binondo Church is a hole-in-the-wall dumplings joint. It can only fit around 20 at a time.

"Tsinoylog" is a term to us. This place, however, serves a different kind.

"Siomai actually traces its roots to South China, (specifically) Canton province. For the first 500 years, all of our immigrants came from the South," said Dy. "This food is from North China, something like the northern version of siomai."

The dumplings are stuffed with pork, served with two kinds of sauces. One is lighter-colored, "but if you ask me, I'd rather have the 'dirty-looking' sauce," said Dy.

The food tour had fallen on Chinese-new-year-ness. Dy pointed out arches, built not in the 1600s but just a few decades back. Dy headed to Masuyo, "the restaurant where we ate in Binondo. "These [arches] have stories to tell, just like this one [along Ongpin], which says, 'Happy New Society' [ngong ignorant reminiscent of Marcos' era]," Dy said.

It's also important to pay attention to street names, as certain streets are affiliated with specific trades: Ongpin for gold, silvers or Reina for electronic hardware; Rizal for textiles; Benavides and Solano are the books's streets.

We took our "official" lunch along Benavides, in a resto house that's been around since 1938. Amid air-conditioned celebrations, this restaurant has remained of open-air type, providing diners an authentic roaring-cooking experience—hot, sweaty and absolutely filling. They also have golf-balloted menu; four pieces are enough for two people. Their sweet sauce with duck roast sauce, which's one should pour into the soup for a little color.

It's after one of the five remaining sweet establishments that make its own noodles, kalaw-style. A noodles pole is used to launch a big bunch of dough— "lifting" the bamboo, with one person at each end, jumping up and down as if riding on a bucking horse.

Dy didn't even flunk of giving us 15 minutes to digest the sweets, and took us across the street to a small bakery where he distributed long rolls of sweet bread. "It'll come in handy at the end," he said.

From there, it was off to sample sweet bread—siopao. Dy told us about the store's three siopao types: A, as in exotic; B, hole-hole; and S (as in C—when made into dry chewing gum). I avoided the human carbon legend of an exotic-filled bun.

It wasn't, of course, Dy assured us. Type C siopao, it turned out, is fried, unlike the most common ones. It's crusty flavorful, with bits of veggies mixed with the meat, so there's no need for sauce.

The tour ended in a restaurant where the owner herself did come in handy since they served us ultra-spicy fish soup—it was literally seared and drenched with chilli. The oyster cake helped tone down the spiciness.

It was really memorable and happy hour in-one, too, as we were given Tsing Tao beer to wash everything down.

The spicy-soup also reminded the group why we stopped: siomai. Chinatown in the first place, and we, misadventurous—and discriminately—checked our mushrooms to see if the chefs had species mistakes.

It did, at least for me, but for an enjoyable day sampling Manila's finest Chinese fare, it little seemed wouldn't have been too much of a bother.

As requested by Jose Mari Dy, the names of restaurants/shops have not been published to preserve the tour's element of surprise. For more info, visit www.oldmanilawalks.com, call 713-8827 or 0917.329.8222, e-mail jmc@oldmanilawalks.com.

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Get ready for Cyber Monday

By Talen Tung
Contributor

ONE of the most anticipated events after Thanksgiving in the US is Black Friday—a consumer's dream come true when stores all over America slash prices on merchandise in an effort to generate holiday sales.

Pandemonium usually ensues, resulting in stampedes, insanely long queues as early as 4 a.m. and enough shoving and elbowing to rival a dirty basketball game.

Employees who work in-store prepare for this event the way football players do for the Superbowl—as they are also in danger of being tackled by mad customers.

While we could only catch stories about the Black Friday sales mayhem on the news, thanks to the vast universe of online shopping, we can also be participants of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, without the danger of being crushed to death.

Start unveiling your favorite online store for reduced prices, some as much as over 50 percent less than the retail price. Every online store has a little something for its customers during this consumer holiday, even small companies which cannot offer huge discounts offer to subsidize shipping during this period.

It's a great time to shop for gifts, get good deals on items you've been eyeing and indulge in a little impulse shopping.

Online stores started advertising last week about their Black Friday offerings, while others have kept mum about which items go on sale, heightening the anticipation and increasing the traffic as well.

Even the normally discount-stingy Apple announced a one-day sale, though its reductions are usually limited to accessories and older version of their products—still, not a bad deal.

Expect the sales to get even better on Cyber Monday (Tuesday midnight and onwards on our time zone), an offshoot of the Black Friday hype limited exclusively to members and mortar shops.

Raring to shop? Check out these tips for a safe and fun experience:

1. Try shopping in the more popular stores first. Have you'll be shopping with a non-US credit card, it's best to check the more common online stores first like Amazon, Ebaydy.com, Nordstrom, & Saks. These shops readily accept international credit cards for payment and customer service is usually very efficient. If your credit card company is wired, be sure to call them ahead to inform them that you are shopping at online stores, some banks instantly decline transactions like these as a safeguard.

2. While some stores ship directly here, you might end up negating your savings with exorbitant shipping costs, not to mention bureaucratic red tape. If you have relatives coming home, this is the best time to spend bills items into bringing home that parcel maker you're planning to buy. Some private couriers also let you ship to their warehouses, where they consolidate packages and ship it here and deliver straight to your door.

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The band that accompanied Pinoy kids growing up in the 1990 takes Manila and Cebu down memory lane, and how!

Waxing nostalgic with Gin Blossoms

Text and photos by Angelo V. Ignacio
Contributor

WHEN a rock band whose music played a major role in your formative years suddenly shows up in your country, it's only natural to want to show your undying appreciation by any means necessary. And in a crowded ballroom at the Crowne Plaza, where half the pinoy members were still positioned from pre-homecoming just blew out the windows SRSLY sort of.

Yup, I am one of those '90s kids who grew up listening to Gin Blossoms, and I still have the cassette tapes to prove it. At the very mention of "Hands," everybody hums, sings, mouths laughter. I could practically hear the collective whoosh of memories from days gone by.

"How do you listen to it now?" vocalist Robin Wilson asks me curiously, and I give a sheepish shrug. I was tempted to say, "Turn dock schizer," but I figured they've already heard enough about cities for one night.

First time

Playing for the first time on this side of the globe, the multi-platinum band from Tempe, Arizona, has had some Filipino followers waiting for a live show for over a decade.

Now, with two concerts scheduled in Manila and Cebu, they've only too happy to make up for lost time.

Before coming here, the members didn't know much about the Philippines except that it's "the Miss's home country," as stated in their Twitter and Facebook accounts. Lead guitarist Jesse Valenzuela, clearly the biggest foodie in the group, then confided that it's "the Miss's home country" as praised

Waxing nostalgic with Gin Blossoms

From page D2

anyone's minds: "Where's with the santa?"

Those who have done their homework know that the idea came from fanatic BiG Lens, who put it from the caption of a photo of comedians W.C. Fields showing their buttocks and penis.

But what on earth does "gin Blossoms" mean, exactly? There's actually a scientific explanation for that, and Wilson starts explaining how the fatty blood vessels in your nose become overactive and cause it to turn into red and bumpy, presumably from too much alcohol intake. Um, cool.

Having been around for a couple of decades or so, the band has been wondering if it's musically moving to show signs of "age." Is this generation of Pinoy and Lady Gaga, don't they even feel the need to keep up?

Well finally, "Important people would tell us, 'I loved you when I was nine years old,' and then they'd feel embarrassed," said Wilson. "But we're not insulted at all."

The band recently did Chartreuse Burnoose and Jimmy Eat World's influences. Although the members respect their younger counterparts who go techno-fusion and digital, they prefer making music the old school analog way. "Fast is, raw and stripped to the bare essentials—just three, three and a half, four guitars, and a whole bunch of cables.

Making changes (or not)

After the price confusion, it's really take our no cassette jacket to the original. The band members' first big out so it's to say, "Holy crap, so those things really did exist," said Wilson both it up in wonder.

Concerts might have become obsolete, but their music was fusion't. Listening to both old and new tracks in the same time, I couldn't really tell the difference, and it's not at all a bad thing. If anything, Wilson's cool, raspy-as-can-be vocals haven't changed a bit over the years, and their sound is as solid and dependable as ever: happy but never manic, at times sad but never depressing.

For their part, the members are positively happy doing what they do best. "We'll [keep doing] this as long as we can," Wilson assures us. As for us fans, as long as they produce the same kind of hook, feel-good rock we all know and love, we wouldn't have it any other way.

Gin Blossoms will appear tonight at the Hotel Manila concert hall. Tickets are available at P2,500 (VIP), P2,000 (Orchestra) and P1,500 (Balcony) at all SM Tickets outlets. For more information, call 891-0604.

Australian rock band Silverchair will perform at the Araneta Coliseum on Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at P2,500 (Platinum), P2,000 (Gold), P1,500 (Silver) and P1,000 (Bronze) at all SM Tickets outlets. For more information, call 891-0604.

Filipino rock band Cambodia will perform at the Music Museum on Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at P1,000 (Gold), P800 (Silver) and P600 (Bronze

HOLIDAY FINDS AT SURPLUS

"Tis that time of year when shopping is in a frenzy mode, when our gift list seems to grow by the day, and we're all looking forward to treating ourselves to a new holiday wardrobe.
And as Christmas approaches, businesswoman Carissa Cruz-Evangelista and daughter Isabella, model and TV personality Ysa Villar, and NU Captain Bali Mervin Baloran have discovered the pleasures of shopping at Surplus, especially its great fashion finds. Here, they share with us their Surplus stories.

CARISSA CRUZ-EVANGELISTA: PRESENTS PERFECT

Young mom Carissa Cruz-Evangelista amazes everyone with the way she juggles her busy schedule as a businesswoman and mother of two. And she even finds time to do the things she loves – cooking, pilates, and boxing. In preparation for the holidays, she's had a lot of fun going over the great finds at Surplus. "The stylish scarves and pretty tote bags are perfect for gift giving," she says. "They're fashionable and affordable." Carissa also loved the soft fleece stainless in striped, floral, and animal designs, which are great for the home and great for gifts. "Surplus is one of my favorite stops," she says, "especially the one in Makati, which is so near my home."

"Surplus has a wonderful selection of scarves that are great to wear and great to give this Christmas," says Carissa.

CARISSA'S SURPLUS FINDS

ISABELLA CRUZ EVANGELISTA: LITTLE FASHIONISTA

At her young age, Isabella Cruz Evangelista has her own fashion style. Very much like Suri Cruise, another little fashionista, she chooses her own clothes, knows what she wants, and what looks good on her. Isabella, who frequently accompanies her mom Carissa when she goes to Surplus, has a great time trying on the children's collection. Just in time for the holidays, she loved the store's cool bunka tops and pants. Here are her finds for little fashionistas.

ISABELLA'S SURPLUS FINDS

MERVIN BALORAN: THE SPORTING LIFE

NU Captain Bali Mervin Baloran visits the Surplus store at SM City Pampanga everytime he visits his hometown in Guagua. With his decidedly sporty lifestyle, this senior Computer Science student goes for jackets and shorts, and he's discovered the wide assortment in the store.

"Surplus items are of good quality and affordable," says Mervin. And they make him a standout on and off the court.

Mervin shares out the latest collection at Surplus.

"I got this really cool hooded bomber/jacket at a very affordable price," says Mervin.

Mervin plans to wear this cool hooded jacket with his second, maroon shirt and khaki pants when he spend Christmas abroad.

MERVIN'S SURPLUS FINDS

YSA VILLAR: A GIRL THING

Although she's better known as a television host and model, Ysa Villar is a stylist at heart. And she's discovered that Surplus is a treasure trove for those who love to experiment with the way they dress.

"There are a lot of great finds at Surplus," says Ysa. "It has a lot of affordable items of good quality that I can easily mix and match." Call it a girl thing, but Ysa's in stylish heaven every time she shops at Surplus.

Ysa goes over Surplus' stylish collection of clothes.

Ysa instantly loved this double breasted plaid jacket which she wore over a purple dress for her trip abroad.

Festive floral print: an eye catcher with versatile pants for get-togethers this Holiday.

YSA'S SURPLUS FINDS

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Make this your new playground

Cinemas with butlers, party suites, Republiq—your Super guide to Resorts World Manila

By Pam Pastor and Tobin Tiong

WE AT SUPER are not big casino players. Our concept of taking risks is limited to stalking celebrities who might get annoyed, using ourselves as guinea pigs for fun and sometimes crazy adventures we think you might like, and taking on so many assignments until we're not sure we can meet all our deadlines.

So when Resorts World Manila opened, we weren't sure it was the place for us. It's a place for casino hos and high rollers, that's for sure, not a bunch of restless whose idea of a fun night out involves avoiding plot machinations. But we were wrong.

We changed our minds a few weeks ago after we spent a day exploring the place. Now we think Resorts World Manila might just be our new playground—and we think it can be yours, too. Here's why:

Newport Ultra Cinema

We know cinemas well. That is, we are practically every movie that hits theaters. We know which cinema serves the best barbecue popcorn, has good legroom and the comfiest seats, or sticky floors, or which cinema membership actually work and which ones are lame.

Now we know where we want to watch the next Harry Potter movie—at the Newport Ultra Cinema.

The seats are crazy comfortable. They are fully reclining, the leg rests are extended and there's enough legroom for Frankenstein.

Tall people (or monsters) aren't the only ones who will love Newport Ultra Cinema. It's perfect for couples going on a movie date, too. Seats are laid out by pair and every pair of seats is enclosed in a reclining pod, giving you privacy. But we love the pods for more than just the privacy they offer. They also protect you from annoying cinemagoers who can't stop kicking your seats.

The VVIP Ultra Cinema ticket includes unlimited drinks and popcorn delivered by cinema butlers. And how do they know you want more snacks? Easy—there's a call button in each pod. We were told you can also ask your butler to purchase food from nearby establishments like Starbucks and McDonald's.

Newport Cinemas 2 and 4 and the Newport 3D Digital Cinema may not have butler service, but we think they're pretty cool, too. Each theater gives you an unobstructed view because of its stadium seating—it won't matter if the person in front of you is too tall.

The seats are comfy, the legroom spacious and you get to use Dolby Digital glasses in the 3D Cinema. Movie tickets for Newport Cinemas 2 and 4 cost P300, while tickets for the 3D Digital Cinema cost P500.

Newport Cinemas are located at the fourth floor of Newport Mall, Resorts World Manila. Call 908-8811 or 001-908-8111.

PAGE 2>

Repairwear Laser Focus
Special Price P4,600
Savings P2,100

Great Skin Home and Away (Skin Types 1&2)
Special Price P4,950
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Merry Clinique
Limited edition gift sets with savings of up to 50%

Great Skin Home and Away (Skin Types 1&2)
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Pretty Day Into Night Looks
Special Price P2,600
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Lip Cravings
Special Price P1,660
Savings P550

Forever Lip and Eye
Special Price P2,300
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Smile and Be Happy
Special Price P3,150
Savings P1,520

Complete Happiness
Special Price P4,700
Savings P2,400

Happy Heart
Special Price P3,150
Savings P1,520

Happy For Men
Special Price P3,400
Savings P1,560

Skin Supplies For Men Shave
Special Price P2,500
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Sophie Dinge Aiden Joshua Cuela

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Edsa Shangri-La and Dora the Explorer bring Christmas early to orphans

EDSA: EDI general manager Brian Yamasan, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos Jr. and Santa during the Edsa's Christmas tree lighting.

ONE HUNDRED orphans under the care of White Cross Children's Home enjoyed an afternoon of fun, games, wishes, and gifts as Edsa Shangri-La, Manila brought the spirit of Christmas giving early on Nov. 11 with a special party geared to fans The Explorer.

The kids, ages three to six, danced and sang with the beloved Nickelodeon character named Dora during some hour party filled with games and festive cheer. Santa's dance number brought the event (as followed) by a gift giving of Dora the Explorer backpacks filled with school supplies for each of the children. Afterwards, the children were down their Christmas wishes on a piece of paper designed as a Dora Christmas Ball and flung on a Christmas Tree at the Edsa Shangri-La lobby hallways.

After the party, the kids went to the fourth lobby lounge and serenaded guests at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. They were also accompanied by the Children's Joy Foundation Choir.

For the past 16 years, it has been a tradition of Edsa Shangri-La, Manila to have a Christmas party for children under the care of White Cross Orphanage.

Established in 1956, the White Cross Children's Home originally housed children of tuberculosis patients. Currently, the orphanage houses more than a hundred orphans with ages from infancy to 11 years old, as well as a Day Care Center for 200 kids from the depressed area of San Juan with ages ranging from three to six years old.

There is soon to move their 100 million households throughout Nickelodeon Asia's extensive television network in the Asian region. Nickelodeon and all related titles, characters and logos are trademarks of Viacom International Inc. Nickelodeon and Viacom Consumer Products are represented in the Philippines by Nelsa Licensing and Representation Inc., a full service licensing agency with 10 years licensing experience in the Philippines.

'Chef in Black' at Chefs On Parade 2011

CHEF EMMANUEL Stroobant - the chef known as the 'Chef in Black' will be an exciting personality to look forward to at the Chefs On Parade 2011 event. He has been invited by the COP 2011 organizing committee to become the special guest chef and judge at the COP 2011 event on Feb. 10-12, 2011 at the SMX Convention Center, SM Mall Of Asia Complex. The "Chef in Black", Emmanuel Stroobant has a series of restaurants where he continues to show his talent and fame in the kitchen. He has 3 cookbooks and has a TV show to his name in Asian Food Channel (AFC). Chef Emmanuel Stroobant will be doing three live cooking demonstrations for the COP event during the two-week days that he will be present in the event. He will also be having a press conference and autograph signing. He will also be visiting the favorite and exhibits at the event. To top it off, chef-on-manuel Stroobant will be one of the judges of the Asian Market Basket Competition. The event and competition schedules will be posted soon at the COP website at www.kag.org.ph/cop.

QUALITY EMPLOYEES HONORED AT CPH

Century Park Hotel gives recognition to its quality employees who have exhibited exemplary work performance and have shown years and below staff the importance of hospitality and service as exemplified by their smiles. Awarded last Dec. 26 at the Mayon Room with the recognition for the month of September were sales account manager Cheryl dela Cruz (quality supervisor for this month), banquet manager Loraine Nasol (smiley face), personal Maximo Arriaga (quality employee for the 4th category) and guest service agent Marivic Pagarigan (for Women Hall category). Receiving the awarding ceremonies were Chan (left) F&B director Angel Tadiar, SM Philippe Bartolomeo, front office manager Jo Ann Lim, executive housekeeper Ma. Luisa Gonzalez and Nanet Reyes. For more information, e-mail rsbmkt@century.park.com.ph or call (632) 526-8888.

2+1 weekend room package at Manila Pavilion

TAKE IS no better way to bond with your family and friends than to have a wonderful weekend stay with Manila Pavilion Hotel's Pavilion Triple Treat room package. Book two nights at P8,100 nett in a superior room and get one night free (subject to hotel availability) for two persons or three at the hotel's exclusive Bistro Indochine restaurant. Offer is valid weekends and celebrations with valid Alien Certificate of Residency until Dec. 31, a relaxing couple treats guests in the hotel's designed to comfort guestrooms replete with functional features and amenities which include cable TV, free wi-fi internet connection, personal safe, coffee and tea making facilities, complimentary use of gym and swimming pool, to name a few. P5,05 nett 100 guest room per room suites, all rooms are specifically designed with a distinctive fusion of comfort and functionality catering to the needs of business and leisure travelers. Up to two children below 12 years of age are free of charge when sharing room with parents with applicable charges for an extra bed. For details and booking requirements, call 525 1212 or e-mail fnb_res@manilapavilion.com.ph.

Looking for a perfect venue for your wedding?

MOMENTO, is perfect for intimate celebrations such as weddings. The hotel's in-house restaurant serves all day but set featuring a fusion of Mediterranean, Continental and Asian cuisine complete with first or solid menu, and dessert options. Packages include: Lunch or dinner room for the couple with free breakfast for two, bottle of champagne, dove and bell, two layered cake, gift certificate, guest book, flower arrangement for the presidential table, name card, name backdrop and free use of sound system. Aside from wedding functions, they have a venue for baptismal, meetings and seminars. For reservations visit their kiosk at Bay Side Boulevard, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, Cebu, Philippines. E-mail momento@philippinesfishy@yahoo.com or call tel. nos. (032)8008-0660, (63-32)232, (63-32)238.

Cinnabon's Jolly Packs

TIS TIMEOTION of gift-giving is one good way to celebrate the festive season that makes every moment memorable. The all-time favorite Christmas gifts are edible and with the exchange of gifts, here is an even simpler & cheaper & tasty be. Schedule your with your gift-giving options Cinnabon introduces the sweet treats-Jolly Packs. Visit your nearest Cinnabon bakery for more details.

Long weekend promo at Astoria Plaza

WE, WE, or for another long weekend and it's the perfect time to get some rest and relaxation for long families and friends. At Astoria Plaza, we're making the getaway irresistible for every, very special rate of only P4,100 nett/night in a spacious one bedroom suite or, you may upgrade your reservation to a two-bedroom suite for only P6,500 nett/night. Busy dads and mom's can relax in the comfort of Astoria Plaza's large suites complete with a living and dining area and a fully functional kitchen. As an added treat, guests in a one bedroom suite will get one complimentary massage while guests staying in a two bedroom suite will get two complimentary massage. This long weekend promo is available only from Nov. 26 to 30. Make your reservations now. Call Astoria Plaza at tel. no. 887-1111, tel. 8882-8888. Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.

Tong Yang Restaurant celebrates Thanksgiving with Lechon Festival

TONG YANG Shatin Shatin and BBQ Restaurant will be serving succulent lechon in roasted pigs in its Eat and Drink All You Can Buffet on Nov. 27 to 28 (Saturday and Sunday) Thanksgiving 2010 Lechon Festival is touted as the local counterpart of the widely celebrated American holiday in November - Thanksgiving Day. The ubiquitous lechon which popularly marks festive Filipino celebrations will be the centerpiece of the Philippines' Thanksgiving meal, instead of the traditional turkey feast served in the United States. Tong Yang Shatin Shatin and BBQ offers its Eat and Now 27 to 28 (Saturday and Sunday) Thanksgiving 2010 Lechon Festival is touted as the local counterpart of the widely celebrated American holiday in November - Thanksgiving Day. The ubiquitous lechon which popularly marks festive Filipino celebrations will be the centerpiece of The Philippines' Thanksgiving meal, instead of the traditional turkey feast served in the United States. Tong Yang Shatin Shatin and BBQ offers its Eat and Now 27 to 28 (Saturday and Sunday) Thanksgiving 2010 Lechon Festival is touted as the local counterpart of the widely celebrated American holiday in November - Thanksgiving Day. The ubiquitous lechon which popularly marks festive Filipino celebrations will be the centerpiece of The Philippines' Thanksgiving meal, instead of the traditional turkey feast served in the United States. For inquiries on buffet schedules and prices, call the Tong Yang branches in Jupiter Makati, tel. nos. 895-3388, 897-4188; One Ayala Ave., tel. no. 373-5860 loc 401, Ayala cu Rotunda, tel. no. 636-0007, 636-0008; SM Megamall Bldg. tel. nos. 631-3622 or 570-3606 and SM City Fairview, tel. nos. 933-0256, 261-7838.

Microtel Hotels · Resorts

CROWNE PLAZA AND HOLIDAY INN MANILA EXECUTIVES BAG AWARDS IN BIG EVENTS

Shangri-La's Mactan, Cebu supports marine paradise

TO ENDORSE its dedication to experience for the discerning traveler, Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu, launched its rate of the Local Residents' Package for as low as P6,500++ and enjoy a bounty of complimentary services and activities on land or in the water. The package includes an overnight stay in a superior garden-view room with daily breakfast buffet at Tides or Angsa. In addition, guests are entitled to a complimentary shuttle ride pass, access to the Health Club, use of the whirlpool, steam room, sauna and gym facilities, free broadband Internet access and free local calls. The Local Residents Package is valid until Dec. 6.

With unparalleled views of the azure waters of the Mactan Channel and an extensive range of water facilities, Shangri-La Mactan, Resort and Spa, Cebu is a natural haven for water lovers. Under its corporate social responsibility program, the resort is the home of a marine sanctuary that houses more than 100 species of fish, coral and other marine life.

At the resort, guests can choose from a variety of activities to experience the underwater beauty of the property including scooting, fish feeding and daily complimentary snorkeling tours. For a more immersive experience, guests can book the open-water adventure and sanctuary dives with the resort's official marine sports provider.

The Local Residents' Package is for Philippine residents only. Proof of residency is required for reservations or check-in. For reservations and information, call Shangri-La Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu at (032)231-0288 or e-mail reservations.cebu@shangri-la.com.

A fairy tale of a restaurant

VISITING Amy's Eatery is like stepping into a fairy tale. The restaurant is reminiscent of old granny's gingerbread house. There's no witch waiting to devour you into the maw for dinner though. The ambiance of Binondo is welcoming, comforting and, most of all, accepting. That, no, however, hence tendency to overfeed you like doting to the point we you could start considering suicide. In Binondo you are encouraged to eat it all up—at the risk of the wrath and problems of everyday life—and expect that you will. Our predilection dominant on the grand cuisines of Binondo, a hard-working married couple with two children, who consider Binondo a place of home. It's their simple and humble wish to provide Manilenos with basic comfort foods to brighten their days, or close them up, to allow them to pursue their tasks with confidence and with good energy to succeed in their bellies. Perhaps this modesty and unassuming pride or what they do or what keeps them young in both appearance and heart. Or perhaps it's being constantly surrounded by the cooking talents of satisfied customers and excellent food. The first Binondo branch was born in Kalentong and a second, three years from some of the incredible lunch specials. The new Ilaya Binondo has proudly put up a branch along Tomas Morato, and a second one in Mandaluyong just across the road from the first one. Binondo offers the most amazing savory dishes. Any visit to Binondo wouldn't be complete without sampling their amazing Bacolod Pie – or any of their other sweet tooth treats; the first one is guaranteed to make you close your eyes and moan in appreciation. Binondo has been a loyal Customer City citizen for the past three years, but thankfully Binondo dwellers can now experience the goodness of Binondo themselves once enough. Lori Nov. 15, Binondo Kitsel opened in the heart of the Central Business District – nestled in its very new premises, inside the Ayala Triangle Gardens. Binondo is the ultimate escape into a world that is somehow familiar, but not completely explored yet. Binondo exists like childhood.

Experience Eastwood Richmonde Hotel

THE SECOND property of hotel-managing company Prestige Hotels and Resorts to come to the vibrant urban community of Eastwood City this November 2010, Eastwood Richmonde Hotel provides the luxury lodging needs of discerning business and leisure travelers to Makati. The hotel offers 194 cute facilities, services of warm attentiveness and efficiently gracious service with contemporary and stylish interiors that epitomize sophisticated hospitality. Its 100 guest rooms boast of spacious convenience and has high-speed connectivity via wired and no Internet access, enjoyable personal entertainment from the 21" LCD TV, and unparalleled pleasant comfort with Richmonde's signature Luxe Beds. Take your pick from five room concepts from the superior standard room, to the splendid one-bedroom and the executive two-bedroom suite. Apart from opening rate of P3,500 (inclusive of breakfast for two), a 10-percent discount package of the special P3,150 rate for senior citizens and P4,000 corporate rate is available on requests, inclusive of breakfast at the chic Eastwood Cafe. These rates are valid for local and foreign guests with ACR, who book directly through the hotel's reservations office. Eastwood Richmonde Hotel is located at 37 Orchard Road, Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City. For inquiries and reservations, call (632)570-7777, e-mail info@richmondehotel.com.ph or log onto www.richmondehotel.com.

Mika de Gallo and Christmas serenades at Lancaster Hotel

THE MERRIEST place to be this Christmas is still with your family. You can create that happy family atmosphere as you stay at Lancaster Hotel this Christmas. Most of their "Holiday Cheers" package from Nov. 15 to Jan. 15, 2011 when you book at a price rate for three nights at P3,200 net per night, to get the fourth night free. The offer includes Christmas themed buffet breakfast for two on Dec. 1, the ballroom decorating & Baked Delights Christmas delivery direct from the Lancaster Kitchen. Highlights of this year's celebration will be on Dec. 23 and 24, as guest can share the merriment with candid serenades by the Children's Joy Foundation's Kundalini troupe in cooperation with Jonah's Coloring Inc. & Mika de Gallo on Dec. 24 rounding up the celebrations. What's more, your stay gives you the chance to win gift certificates and other surprises. Lancaster Hotel Manila is conveniently located at Mina Bldg. in Mandaluyong City, a few hundred meters away from the busy intersection of Crossing along Edsa. The hotel is within reach of the numerous accommodations with its 140 hotel rooms, as well as the prime commercial, dining and lifestyle facilities – malls and eateries. Additionally, complimentary wireless internet access in every guestroom. This "Holiday Cheers" package rate is inclusive of service charge and applicable government taxes. Prior reservation is required and subject to space availability. For more information call (632)532-1818 fax (632)532-1808, or log onto www.lancasterhotel.com.ph or e-mail reservations@lancasterhotel.com.ph.

MARRIOTT MANILA CONDUCTS FEEDING PROGRAM AT TIMOTEO PAEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Hotel Orchid Manila recently conducted a feeding program for 200 grade-three students of Timoteo Paez Elementary School. Such outreach activities are the culmination of various activities undertaken by the hotel through the "Spirit to Serve the Community", a program that facilitates associate involvement through various projects in-hotel environment, in the community and in the environment. Other activities and special associates projects undertaken by the associates. Shown in photo are (l-r) Hotel Orchid Manila associates from different departments with the grade two students of Timoteo Paez Elementary School.

Make this...

From page E1

Republiq

Now Taguig mistakes would be to think of it as just a club. Republiq is more than that.

The brainchild of the people behind Embassy, Encore, Suite and Attendants Only, Republiq is another step in the direction of partners Fernando Ancheta, Erik Uno, Ani Herrera and Tim Ong to put the Philippines on the global clubbing map.

Republiq is huge and boasts of state-of-the-art sounds and light systems. The Republiq Main Room and Café opened first, followed by The Station at Republiq (private rooms that offer different kinds of entertainment from karaoke and video streaming to video games) and Republiq's secondary club room, Café Republiq serves international cuisine.

"We did extensive research around global clubbing destinations. As a group, we went to Area Path, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Ushi Tora, London, Miami, Hong Kong and Ibiza. When you see in Republiq is an amalgamation of our different inspirations from all over the world. Just like as a nation...quite mixed, but never lacking in substance and fun," said Ong.

It shouldn't be a surprise that they decided to open another club. "We know what's working good so. This is our passion—to make other people happy to provide a means for world-class entertainment and we will continue to do so to the best of our abilities."

The people behind Republiq intend to "rewrite the rules of nightlife and partying" with the club. It's only been open a few months, but it's already been the scene of countless big events, from celebrity birthday celebrations and product launches to huge exclusive parties.

People should expect great music from Republiq. After all, the country's best DJs spin there. "There's really something for everyone—from cutting edge to classics, for sounds spot and house music. We have a wide music library—the latest dance tunes incorporated with pop or rock."

Try the Republiq mix, which "rap calls "a namedrop thing spectacles." Rip also recommends that first-timers go for the Bottle Service. "With that you get VIP treatment, express entry and a sum table for you and nine of your friends. If it's your first time, why not go all the way?"

A few things to remember: There's a dress code, and it stays to bring a valid ID. Pop says, "Our security level is that of a hotel's entrance mall. It's the highest for any club, just to ensure everybody's safety."

Republiq is located at The Atrium of Bonifacio Mall and is open from 10 p.m. to 03:30 a.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Café Republiq is open every day.

CANTONESE cuisine from Passion

EXTENSIVE drinks menu at Cafe ArLait

Newport Performing Arts Theater

The Newport Performing Arts Theater shows a lot of promise. The Marsya by Filipinas pageant was the first event held there, and SPAY has more exciting shows lined up.

First on the list is EKOS, a show about love that can be enjoyed by the entire family. Actors Gian Magdangal, Martin Joey and Joel Trinidad will share the stage with a cute white lion and skilled performers from around the world in an authentic production that will enjoy wide audiences.

Manitou tower

Although Manitou, Resorts World Manila's six-star all-suite hotel, has yet to officially open, we got a taste of the suites and the vibe. There are bodies to appeal to each guest, all specially trained to make your stay a relaxing and luxurious one.

Manitou doesn't have a front desk. Because it doesn't want its guests waiting in line, check-in is done in the comfort of their hotel suites.

Each suite is equipped with an Apple Giant Media Unit—a touch-screen machine that allows you to do a lot of things, from calling your butler and getting quick information on to ordering room service. The huge televisions in the rooms can also be used for surfing the Internet. Trust us, you've never seen Google that big.

One of the many things that would make your stay unique is how much space there is—in the bathroom, in the bedroom, on the couch, in the factory. As you walk into each suite and villa, you can't help but imagine your friends partying there. And there is enough space for a party, even ours. Now all you need are high-roller friends.

Marriott Hotel Manila

For accommodations that are a little more affordable but still luxurious, Marriott Hotel Manila is a good choice. We love Marriott's pool.

Shopping

Resorts World's attached Newport Mall makes it hard for the newly flush to indulge in the luxury brands located near the gaming area, apart from the high-end brands lining the ground level, Newport Mall is also home to familiar favorites, up-and-coming brands and cool specialty stores.

Newport's men selection caters to all kinds of shoppers—clothes horses, techies, shoe fetishists and beauty junkies. Currently there are 12 shops that are operational, with more opening their doors every day.

Café Ar Lait

We love hotel cafés. And we especially love Café au Lait because while the place offers the things we love about hotel cafés (comfy couches, good food and an extensive drinks menu), it offers some thing most hotel cafés don't—affordable prices.

Our top picks include the Cookies and Cream smoothie, the coffee creations and the Belgian cookies. Seriously, we can hang out there all day.

Café Ar Lait is located at Resorts World's lobby. It's open from 8 a.m. to 12 midnight on Sundays to Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Bar 360

When we visited, there was a girl group onstage at Bar 360 singing Lady Gaga songs. But on most nights, there are performances from foreign acts—bands from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

Bar 360 is located at the ground floor of Resorts World Manila and is open 24 hours.

Food trip

It doesn't matter if you want to splurge on an excellent meal or you're saving your money for shopping, Resorts World Manila has a lot of room to offer those who are seeking adventure for their palates. There's Passion, which serves delicious Cantonese and Southeast Asian cuisine (the sweet and sour pork is fantastic), and Circadian, which offers Japanese and Korean dishes.

There are also fast-food stores and old favorites like Dencake House, Hukney's, Kenny Rogers and more.

Getting there

Resorts World Manila is located across Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) 3. It sounds far—but not really.

There are many ways to get to Resorts World Manila. You can take your car, you can take public buses (Resorts World has its own transport terminal), you can take the MRT and then ride the white Naia 3 Loop shuttle bus, or you can ride the EDSA shuttle train with various pick-up points throughout the city. All you need to do is flash your RWM membership card, which you can get for free.

For more information, call 8266.1111 or visit resortsworld.com.

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2b LIFESTYLE

When princes turn into frogs

Or why I blame Disney... love and relationship don't need an ending, really

By Sasha Lim-Uy

BRIGITTA Along came Prince Charming and we lived happily ever after.

On one side, little girls relish the first hour about their become exposed to love and the promise of ever-after happiness. Be it Britney or that prince from Cinderella, they open a possibility of a dream, a perfect man based on a committed prince charming.

But that perfection is pierced by a painful reality. The other side, beneath the shining armor, is a world of tarnished chest hair and deformed hairy warts. A prince for a knight, until love changeably bars us there are both equally "unrealistic" to little girls) doesn't always sweep you off your feet; in fact, sometimes he even trips you. The prince you anticipated to save you from the tower may not be as agile or as dashing as you pictured him to be.

Like every little girl, I went through that phase—a time when between daddy's knees and the occasional principle, I removed the "perfect man." He had Aladdin's suggestions with a touch of Pocahontas Thatcher's Cheering Hill's sincerity. He already subscribed James Bond's ageless good looks and charm.

The list of good traits continues, forming probably an impossible one dream. But good dreams last only, well, as long as they remain that way. I discovered the ultimate ride the hard way.

Prince to the rescue

A combination of strict upbringing, priorities and mere chalance made me wait over 30 years before allowing a prince to rescue me from my towers. My wrists to

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A. UPIN

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SEIH

ANG DRAYBER

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

TULDOK

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles or to learn more, go to www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	2	4	6	3	5	9	8	1
6	3	5	8	9	1	2	4	7
8	9	1	2	4	7	6	5	3
4	1	6	5	7	3	8	9	2
5	8	3	9	2	4	1	7	6
9	7	2	1	8	6	5	3	4
1	5	8	4	6	9	7	2	3
2	6	9	7	5	8	3	1	4
3	4	7	3	1	2	4	6	5

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

4			2				3	
1		3	6					8
			8					4
2			1				6	
	6				9			5
6					5			
8					3	1		9
	4				2			7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

LOUISIAN showing off some school pride

Saint Louis University to mark centennial

By Kristen S. Quintero
Correspondent, Saint Louis University

ALUMNI AND students of Saint Louis University (SLU), Baguio City, will join the launch of SLU centennial festivities.

SLU turns 100 years old in 2011.

The centennial theme and concept by the SLU Center for Culture and Arts will be held today (Nov. 27) to kick off the festivities.

But the official launch will be on Dec. 1. Activities will include a garage sale, the "Louisiana Got Talent" show, an evening concert and more.

Homecoming activities are planned throughout the celebrations of the Centennial Year; they are reported on the SLU website. Souvenir items are available such as mugs, caps, bags, pens and limited-edition T-shirts.

SLU is a premiere non-profit educational institution founded in 1911 by the Congregation Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM). It is in the heart of Baguio City.

With more than 20,000 students in the college level, SLU is called the "Northern Light," a leading higher learning institution in Northern Luzon.

The SLU motto is Sapientia Aedificat or "Wisdom Builds," and true to this, it offers graduate and undergraduate studies in different fields such as Accountancy and Business Management, Computing and Information Sciences, Engineering and Architecture, Humanities, Law, Medicine, Natural Sciences, Nursing and Teaching Sciences.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has granted SLU full autonomous status. It has declared SLU as a Center of Excellence in Teacher Education, and a Center of Development in Nursing Education, Information Technology and Engineering Education, Chemical Engineering and Electronic Engineering.

Prominent SLU alumni include Jody A. Laigon (Socorro Lamel Bank president, congressman and education secretary), Eugenio S. Longue (chairman of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples), actor Antonio Padilla (aka BB Gandanghari), the late actor Bimby Cacho (Division Superintendent) and Ingrid Peralejo (finalist, "Pilipinas Got Talent").

Perfect fit for the Louisan spirit

By Kristen S. Quintero
Correspondent, Saint Louis University

GOODWEAR (owned and managed from #1SE® gives birth to the Saint Louis University (SLU) community with the launch of its own line of contemporary shirts GOODWEAR@The Courses and Shirts (LCS).

The LCS is a special project of Area #1SE to line with the centennial celebrations of the Saint Louis University in 2011.

LCS owns Curly Louis (L. Louis) and also the popular cartoon "Lolipop" as the mascot of graduates of the university and its regions Louisian pride.

The limited-edition shirts were designed by Area #1SE's creative director Alex H. Bacosa.

Schools and their part of the proceeds will go to the LCS Student Project for Alumni Rate.

50 YEARS OF FASHION PRESCRIPTION BY GEORGE OPTICAL

Modern times call for modern needs. For the past 50 years, George Optical has proved itself to be on top of the eye care industry by always innovating to be the best in their craft.

It is no surprise that George Optical carries the brand that truly knows what innovation is all about and has stood the test of time and ever-changing styles: Ray-Ban. Like George Optical, Ray-Ban has mastered the art of constant innovation.

This season, Ray-Ban offers prescription frames that transcends mere functionality into true fashion beauty by giving a new twist to perfect a classic piece, Wayfarers Rx. The myriad of bold colors, textures, and prints will reflect that complement anyone and everyone's characteristic style.

See the world differently with the newest prescription glasses to hit town. In return, let the whole world see you in a new light.

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When princes turn into frogs

From page F1

town, a brisk combination of pure pressure and hormones, never once pushed me into advertising for rescue. Besides, I had a stubborn mindset that since my boyfriend-bangkit prince was going to last forever, I could afford a few years of some alone time.

Fairytale nightmare

From afar, my prince. The one supposedly durable enough to last forever) looks magnificent on his swift horse. His shoulders are broad, posture straight. And even as a dot to the distance, he looks suspiciously regal.

But while some princesses politely say, "thank you" and "go away" after nothing the unimagined. Still, Sara and stunted growth cleverly convinced under the sirens. I paused, even or frantically.

Off we went on his horse towards "happily ever after."

But the fairytale went only so far as the horse ride. Arguments, petty fights, tantrums and silent treatments followed—even after I uttered my childish definition to Mr. Scott Peck's famous classical definition of love.

It is "the will to extend one's self in order for another's own or another's spiritual growth." There was no spirituality or growth whatsoever. the only thing we did manage to measure was animosity and impatience—for each other.

It just didn't work out. I blame Romeo and Pink Disney Thus another postscript of what "love" and "relationship" should be molded my own perception. And up on discovering how my so-called prince barely fit the stereotype I made up. I became more desperate (bordering on pedestrian) finding, making, shoving anything all means to make him the prince Disney told me was real.

That was when I realized that Cinderella was fiction—with a sweaty floor. That love, relationship, shouldn't be based on an ending.

"Happily ever after"—among regrets, or these words seem necessary. It's a slow and grueling process with more setbacks, exposures and poisoned apples after anyone can anticipate.

One particularly hopeless night, I asked advice from a friend who's been in a relationship for more than six years. the simple solution? To never let go.

"Love is to never get tired of the relationship but to always look for new ways of rekindling the feeling." My such, no desperation.

She told me that one day I will find the person I'll never get tired of handling the feeling with.

That first relationship sent me crashing back to reality. Not everything is storied tradition and singing along with woodland creatures. Sometimes pain, hurt and maybe some tears are inevitable as long as you have the will to make everything work, then you're on the right path.

I'm not a princess. And real princesses are the pole-planting kind. The prince in my mind perished some stone ages. Fortunes. But while I altered him to more practical and earthly standards, I never lowered them. And that's free advice from someone who learned from her mistakes.

Still cheesy the prude laught, but accept the fact that he doesn't have chiseled abs; don't forget that you want someone brave but it's okay that he doesn't have a horse.

UP Mindanao's campus paper goes online–and catches fire

By Jesse Ranson B Bingo
Student contributor, UP Mindanao

THE ERA of campus papers going online has been viewed since the Internet became widely accessible in cladosis in 2002 (look when we all still frequented Friendster).

But what is it about the online version of Rimat, the official student publication of the University of the Philippines Mindanao, that's making waves in every student's computer device could be

The answer is simple: the publication took on a more personal kind of presentation, apart from its paper issue. Rimat is proving a strong online presence in FaceBook and Twitter due to its interactive quality, and to making a local hunk on Youtube with video blogs a la Mariele Tom.

More personal

Rimat's Youtube version has proven to be more personal and accessible, as it allows the students to participate and voice their comments in the sections.

It all started with the publication's need to bring back the paper's winning combination because of the 2009 editor's "multimedia" point issue.

"To vary them back, we needed some disruption to catch their attention before we release our print issue, and the video blogs were just perfect," said editor in chief Sergei Reyes.

"With a little inspiration from Pipay.com's Kuya Dominic, whom we once met in a workshop, and the YouTube channels of Mariele Tom and Christine Gendrano, we found ourselves producing four shows that brought the students back to reading the paper again."

Unlike UP Diliman's The Philippine Collegian (a weekly publication), Rimat has yet to work on the frequency of the release of print issues, says managing editor Jessica Alabat.

"I noticed that there'd been a decrease in the number of publications over the years since 2009. The online versions in Facebook and Twitter, and the YouTube video blogs, are ways for us to spit closer to the students, and at the same time, make up for the less printed issues. That's why we try to make Rimat's issue personal this time, with more interactions, as we involve the students at large."

Four shows

Four shows with four different personalities, each having a different story to tell, are featured in the Rimat video blogs.

D'Pantas cocoa a good avenue for interaction with the students and allows them "to speak out and be heard" as Basil Brian Santos asks them about UPMin culture, current events and timely campus things like the dorm broke-ups/ups with chibi, or other yours-truly self-graduate stylist.

In a special episode, she went to the College of Science and Math building to "investigate" reports of a Peeping Tom in the girls' bathrooms.

You may as well call Siddhi "the visionary." In her show, Silver Tidi' Expo talks about small and those yet relatable things that students encounter everyday on campus. One time, she surprised about how we can't decide in the computer shop. I get her smart things, instead giving her candy. "Save the world from caroline" she said, seriously.

What fly of a Crazy Scientist with Yna Martinez is a show something all of the dormers in UPMin's Ellen P. Lopez Hall can relate to. It's about dormitory life. And because there are so many strict rules in the dorm, Yna explores the crazy ways to evade retaliation and still go overtripping and having fun beyond 10 p.m. Tip: hide from the dorm managers when she inspects your room's rooms—little on the closet, literally.

Rimat's Pinta, the bilateralist, discusses "heavy" issues that affect the student body. But her light approach to topics such as tuition fee increases, campus politics and student affairs keeps viewers interested and well-informed.

KENNETH Pavia

YNA MARTINEZ

PINMA Santos

ALTHEA "Didi" Gapo

Himati's videblogs are a hit among its student constituency

Feedback

Since the video blog episode began in August, Rimati's been getting a lot of feedback: good and bad.

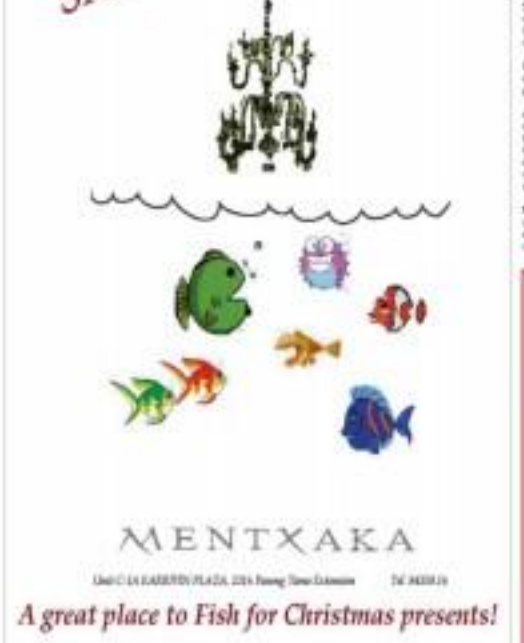
While many students found the video blogs both entertaining and informative, along with the goodness and shenanigans, had negative reactions about campus journalism's new "focus."

"We try to take comments in as constructively as we can, but we also consider that the video blogs are one ways of adapting with the changing times," Reyes says. "We don't just do investigative reporting as we do for print issues. Video blogs are different, because they depict life as how you see it, not exactly the same as news delivery where you constantly try to be objective."

The Rimati staff maintains that feedback is what they are looking for; it tells them they are being watched as much as they watch the people around them.

"We did one crappy episode once, and we were determined not to do the same thing again," Reyes adds.

Subscribe to Rimati's video blogs at www.youtube.com/user/RimatVideoBlogs.



San Beda Alabang holds alumni homecoming

At THE famous line of the Bedan Formation, "Herald the Bedans coming, may our fellowship never cease." The fellowship will be evident this December when San Beda Alabang holds its second grand alumni homecoming.

The school south of Manila once again calls upon Alabang Bedans to gather and celebrate everything that is Bedan.

Formerly known as Benedictine Abbey School and St. Benedict College, and now officially called San Beda College Alabang, the school proudly commemorates the legacy of San Beda's first original college in Manila a now 111 years old.

San Beda in Manila takes pride in producing revered national figures such as Raul Roco, Nicoy Aquino, Benigno Aquino, Antonio Floreza Regalado, Jaime Ongpin, Tony Lantin, Dr. Lourdes and Manolo Quisumbing, to name a few. The Alabang sister school has for its alumni Sen. Pia Cayetano, Rep. Abraham Mitra and musician Noel Cabangon.

The alumni homecoming will be on tentative Dec. 6, 7 p.m. at the school gym. Tickets cost P500 each. For more details, call Rita Agregado of the Alumni Affairs Office, or Tin Bacani at 889-1700 and 09.17-3480975.

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rio P. Avila

SATURDAY Special

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NOW SHOWING

Runaway groom gets his comeuppance

By Rio P. Avila

SUTE-BIHIR that any unsung Angel Locsin, Kaye Abad, Deanie Lacsed or Judi Ho-Marta would make an ideal bride, right? Well, not for John Lloyd Cruz's nice but naughty bachelor character, Apollo, in Cathy Garcia-Molinari's "My Amnesia Girl." None of them is good enough to take home to Papa (Aires Gil. In fact, even when Ted unveils Jessy (Toni Gonzaga), the girl of his dreams, he also eventually leaves her—at the altar!

But, when he realizes it's time to settle down, Apollo decides to pursue the woman he's hurt the most. There's a little "complication" to his dilemma, however: Jessy doesn't seem to know who he is!

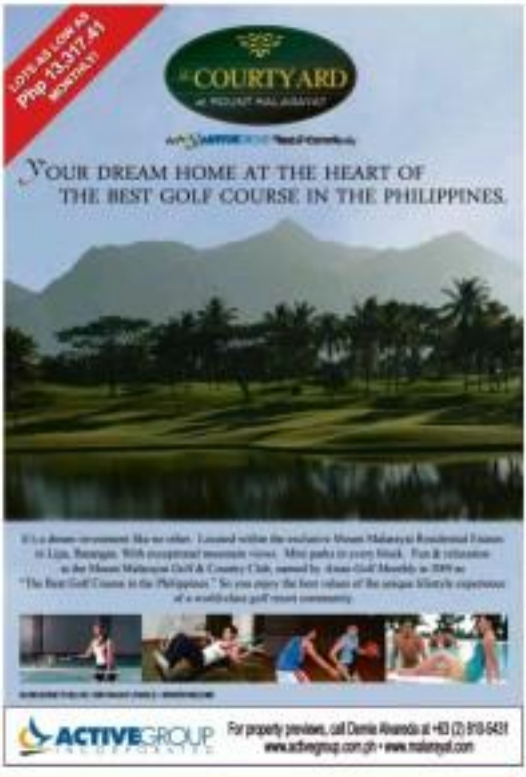
CRUZ AND GONZAGA. Not much color beneath their starter's organ crushing

Unique situation

So, when he learns that his former bride-to-be has amnesia, Ted sees the unique situation as his ticket to romantic redemption. To win Jessy over again, he tags along as her alalay, uses errands for her, and even makes a fool of himself by posing half-naked when she asks him to be Jobi's photographer! And, you once does he suspect that there's a reason behind her obvious displays of amusement.

Of course, if only Apollo and his cogo-bassets pals (Carlos Agassi, Jason Gainza, JM de Guzman and Kristop Escobal weren't so gullible as the runaway groom's past girlfriends), they wouldn't even need a physician to see through Jessy's ruse—although if that did happen, then would have

SPOTLIGHT, G2



AM/FM

How not to conduct radio interviews

By Ronald G. Mangahas

"DOCTOR, HOW long have you been working in the hospital?," asked the angry radio host during a live interview. The guest cleared his throat and slowly replied, "I don't know what's got your knickers in a twist, but I'm not a doctor. I'm a medical technologist."

Exchanges like this are common nowadays, making us wonder what the heck is happening to some anchors. Do they ever prepare at all, or are they taking their work for granted?

Popular TV host, Barbara Walters, was once asked, "What makes a good interviewer?" Answer: "Curiosity, the ability to listen—and doing your homework." According to the late Bonnie Drumeller in her book, "How to Face (The Evil of Interviews

WALTERS. Needed: curiosity, the ability to listen ... and doing your homework.

ing)," "Like a theatrical performance, the interview is unique and usually unrepeatable. It's not only one person asking another questions on a preapproved subject, it involves people interacting and perceiving light—and sometimes, heat, as well."

Questions

As we switch stations, we understand why some interviewers get irked during host-guest exchanges. On one medical program, for example, the cheerful host

READ ON G2

Biopic explores Bruce Lee's life before fame

HONG KONG—Bruce Lee's path to stardom and his early death is a familiar story. But, few have heard about the early days of the young man who would grow up as a global icon of kung fu cool and model of Chinese ethnic pride.

A new $14.5-million Chinese-language production scheduled for release in time for Lee's 70th birthday on Nov. 27 aims to fill the gap. Drawing from the memories of Lee's siblings, "Bruce Lee, My Brother" traces the actor's life growing up in Hong Kong before he left to study in the US.

"Many people know about his movies and fighting philosophy after he became famous. But, very few know about his family, his parents and his first love, or what he did on movie sets as a young actor," producer Manfred Wong shared.

LEE. Portrays the kung fu icon in a new film.

New perspective

"The production offers a new perspective to understanding a person. We see someone who's real and frail. In The Bruce Lee we see in the films is deified," endorsed Wong Ho-Wong, head of the Hong Kong Bruce Lee fan club and an advisor to the film.

Lee formed his cult as a martial arts instructor in the US before making his debut in the short-lived TV series "The Green Hornet." Struggling to break into Hollywood, he returned to his hometown, Hong Kong, where he was catapulted to global fame with hits like "The Big Boss" and "Fist of Fury" before passing away in 1973 at age 32 from swelling of the brain. "Bruce Lee, My Brother" tells the story of the young hero-to-be.

Audiences see Lee entering his first love interest, launching his entertainment career as a popular child actor, and pained by a childhood friend's ailing addiction. He flashes his ballroom dance moves, starts training in the Chinese kung fu style of wing chun and takes part in an international boxing competition.

Clad in the loud role as Hong Kong newcomer, Audi Lee, who's not related to the late actor, The sharp facial features of the 22-year-old singer-songwriter who's built from a family of mixed Chinese, Malaysian and Middle Eastern heritage, make him a credible stand-in for Bruce Lee, whose mother was part German.

Personality

The shoot was partly a history lesson for the young actor, who was born some 15 years after the death of the character he portrays. He said he knew little about Lee before taking on the role, except that he was an "amazing fighter." But, he came away from the production admiring Lee's multifaceted personality. "He was a charismatic young man, and what most people know about him was his fighting. But, there's so much more to Bruce Lee than just that," said Lee noted.

The production was based on input from Lee's younger brother, Robert, and his late eldest sister.

AnakTV announces winners for 2010

ABBY Cojuangco-Jaworski, spokesperson of AnakTV, the organization of television stations operating in the Philippines, last announced the winners of 91 television programs have been singled out to receive the AnakTV nod.

The decision was reached after nearly 3,000 piece evaluating of parents, educators, mediamen, religious and businessmen, NGO's and youth groups assessed the entries using the criterion of child-sensitivity.

Leading the pack is Net 25, with 22 awards. TBN, the government station, takes home 16 awards, while GMA will receive 13 awards. QTV garnered 12, while ABS-CBN and GMA Network only managed six awards each. TV5 will bring home 14. IBC 13 has two winners this year while Studio 23 will take home only one win.

Cojuangco-Jaworski explains "While we may enjoy a bumper harvest this year, the number unfortunately constitutes only a small percentage of what is readily available to Filipino children at home from from 6 to 9 p.m. Sadly, a great number of the winning programs are our really children's programs, but those which the juries found child-safe, even if the target audience was adult."

Complete list

The complete list of winners are:

ABS-CBN: "Bagsakpuja, Wowowee Ka," "Fuffilla," "Mag-TV: Na Baguio," "Mag-TV Na (2X)," "Mag-TV Sa Cebu," and "Salamat Dok."

IBC: Winner Filipinas," "Mali, Salukag," "Bahaginan," "Bro Stores," "Damayan," "Kapilihiyan," "Tesary Is Hotel," "Restaurantes," "Negosyo Atbp.," "Power to Utak," "Sci-Pol," "Tapia and Mesdos," "Salong Fo," "Pagong Ito Jakuba," "Jakapilip," "The Doctor Is In," and "The Kung Chow."

TV 5: "Barrio and Friends," "Blues Clues," "Bob the Builder," "Dora, the Explorer," "Global Groove," "I.S.I.," "Inside the Hub Bond," "Kenny Monroe," "Monsieur TV," "Mutant TV," "Nutrisa Pat, "Sponge Bob Squarepants," "The Wiggles," "Topsoil," "Thomas and Friends," and "Wonder Bro."

GMA: "Adventure," "Be Angel," "Happy Land," "PJM Forum," "Tropang Weeks," and "Wish Ko Lang."

QTV: "Ano Sino Sa Mga Ito," "Ask Grandpa," "Bata," "Dipun at Ipsan," "Go Negosyo," "GOMO," "Pinoy Tales," "Tulfo: Kuya and Friends," Scouts with the Light Brown Hair," "Legend of Blessing Bamboo," "Mares," "Midnight Dispatch," "Pendientes," and "Tito Confidential."

IBC: "Ligaya Bahia" and "Galaxy at Heaven."

Studio 23: "I Speak."

Net 25: "Ang Iglesia Ni Cristo," "Ang Pagkakaisang," "Bumbohan," "Chronicles," "Discover Germany," "GMRM, 2000," "Homecoming," "I Salita," "Iglesia Ni Cristo and the Bible," "In Focus," "In Good Shape," "I-News," "Journal News," "Landmarks," "Moments," "On Set," "Pangs with Dench News," "Red Carpet," "Specs," "Tatsoe mo Today," and "Tibay."

IDTV: "Bread and Butter," "Bread Tambayan," "Dito Jo Sa Amin," "Dos on TV," "Kamagkoc," "Good Morning Kuya," "Inkrya," "Kilometro Natin," "Mr. Ghost," "Low Profile," "Morning Musmos," "Sports 37," and "Spotlight."

The awards ceremonies are scheduled on Dec. 8.

COJUANGCO-JAWORSKI. AnakTV spokesperson.

A time to laugh, a time to cry

SCATTERS TEARS up my soul/ more than tubes my eyes/ rushes me/ to/ subjects in memories of/ joys joy and happiness, like when Dyesing Navarro celebrated his/ TWO birthday/ recently at Glorias Steak, Greenhills. She/ invited all his children to be/ there, but he knew that his only daughter/ couldn't leave Los Angeles, California.

You can imagine Dyesing's surprise when his wife, Santiago/ And Ana made sure that the people desired to her hubby were present. Many of them flew in a few days before the party and had to a condo in QC and the night of the celebration!

The celebration spent a lot of time carrying his ups. Media, for her part, Michelle honored her dad by enumerating 78 reasons why she loved him.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navarro

Mayor Amy Sinsuan, presented by Senator "jill" to Sin— Michelle, who walked up to the stage and lovingly embraced her dad.

HAVANA JOINERS. Special birthday "gift."

Mass

On the other hand, a great man passed away last Nov. 25: Master Mariner Capt. Gregorio S. Oca, 83, will be buried tomorrow, Nov. 28, on the occasion of his birthday, after a 9 a.m. Mass at Ateneo Sacrament Center, Commonwealth Ave., Batasan Hills.

He will be buried at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina. He is survived by his wife, Dina, children, Mariana, Migz and Jonas, Cristal and Yvette and his grandchildren.

OCA. Championed the cause of boy soldiers.

Captain Oca championed the cause of our seafarers in the international workplace. For them, he built seamen's hospitals in Intramuros, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao.

* * *

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You can invite your friends over for lunch at The Beaufort's exclusive restaurant. Here your own gourmet parties in a unique theatre-kitchen called The Chef's Island. For the kids, playtime is always something to look forward to at the indoor and outdoor play areas and kiddie pool. For times when you need to work at home, a high-tech business center with videoconferencing facilities is at your disposal. Both alfresco and indoor. The Beaufort offers the ultimate in comfort and convenience.

Enviable location

The Beaufort is nestled within Bonifacio Global City, on one of the few remaining lots overlooking the Manila Golf Club, rising in one of the most modern and master-planned urban centers in the country, residents of The Beaufort will enjoy the advantages of having close to home:

easy 24/7 access away from the busy areas, just a few blocks from the Ayala Avenue extension and SLEX; Market! Market! Trinoma, The Beaufort is surrounded by serene business and shopping centers, as well as leading medical and learning institutions. Fine dining is just a mere stone's throw away at the nearby Bonifacio High Street, The Fort Strip and Burgos Circle.

With its central location, fort Bonifacio provides the business hubs of Makati and Ortigas, and is directly linked to EDSA, C-5 and the South Luzon Expressway. Highly accessible, it keeps you connected to any destination with its proximity to Manila's domestic and international airports. Its seaport location is just one of the features that make The Beaufort an excellent investment choice.

World-class team

The Beaufort is a landmark project under the Filinvest Premiere brand. Fifty years in the business and one of the country's leading real estate developers, Filinvest has developed over 3,000 hectares of land and more than 400,000 square meters of prime office condominium and commercial spaces. It's the corporate name behind projects such as Filinvest Town Homes, Nuvali Superbloc, Alabang Commercial Center, The Fairlie Country Clubs and residential developments in Cebu and Davao as well as tourist destinations.

For The Beaufort, Filinvest has tapped the expertise of an international design team to ensure the highest standards of development. Architectural design is by Arquitectonica, an award-winning US-based firm known for landmark projects such as the Atlantis, Miami Beach in Florida, the Olympic Penthouses, Jaro Center in France and the International Finance Center in Seoul, Korea. The Beaufort's interiors are designed by Teams Design, Inc. which has projects such as Peninsula Bangkok and The Ritz-Carlton Lodge in Hawaii/Palau.

The Beaufort is now rising at the corner of 5th Avenue and 23rd Street in Bonifacio Global City. For more information or to arrange a private viewing, please call 856-7788, 856-7331 or 27 or log on to www.thebeaufort.com.ph.

So you want to be a good TV host?

By Nestor U. Torre

SOLEDAD: Tough challenge

PEDRO SALAZAR beheaded recently made her "surprise" debut as Willa Bevilmore's reborn on "Wilfing Willa," we were amped by quite a number of people to instantly start to her "predictations." But, as cautioned, it's also fun time to "get her sex legs" in this endlessly new line of work for her.

Why were we lining us "considered"? It would have been more of a "scoop" if we interviewed her very first appearance—but, we told our bosses for the simple reason that we have learned our share of TV shows (for something like eight years), so we know what a tough and risk-challenge it is to go from private person to TV host practically—overnight!

Evaluation

We'll soon (soon, we'll be coming out with our evaluation of Shalani as local TV's biggest budding discovery) But (via live text, however), let's give her another week to get things right. Let's focus instead on a hopefully instructive discussion of why hosting a TV show is so damned difficult for most people to learn to do well.

When we hosted our first TV talk-magazine-variety show, "Night Out," we didn't know what we were doing! We thought that our experience as a radio announcer and TV-stage actor would see us through—but, when we first telecast started, we pretty much blanked out and did the rest of the program on sheer adrenaline, gut feel—and terror!

Why were we so terrified? We knew all of the "principles" of TV hosting—in fact, we had successfully trained a number of you talents to reasonably do well in TV hosts. But, "principles" are different from the actual challenges of you yourself facing the TV cameras for the first time.

Why is it so tough? You're nervous about having to face many thousands of viewers who expect you to make zero mistakes (as you promptly end up making a gazillion boners and blunders in your show's first five minutes).

You also have to remember too many things to do and say to keep the show rocketing. You have to come across as casual and cool, even if you can't breathe and you judge you're racing. You have to keep your viewers informed, entertained, delighted and impressed with your intelligence, wit and ability to find fun and bring out the best in your guests, so everyone will have a great time and think that your show is the best!

Man, unless you've been on TV hosting, it often can't be too easily how to give it more time, training and "smarts."

Miracles

To expect yourself to do well right from the get-go is to believe in miracles. Sure, miracles do happen, but only once in a show but century, so it would be awfully chunky of you to think that you're the very newbie who will be hit by dazzling stellar lightning this first session!

If you want to become a good TV host, you should "sym" yourself such these common and "symptoms": Get a good education, because as a host you will be expected to be at least basically informed about most topics, issues and personalities. Next, you should be able to think fast, because many unexpected things happen in the course of a show and it's the host who makes sure that the business don't get in the way of his viewers' enjoyment.

In addition, you have to look good, do your research on the topics and personalities your shows features on a daily or weekly basis, come up with sensible and interesting things to say about them, and know how to elicit honest and striking comments from your guests. To do this, you have to be able to relate to them as people—in only a few minutes!

Above all, you have to stop thinking of yourself, and concentrate only on your show and its viewers—how to keep them informed and delighted enough for them to decide to make your program a viewing habit. When you're able to do that, it's now on its hands!

So, you want to become a good TV host? The work starts now, many months or even years before it can actually happen! What about "rawear" hosts like Shalani Soledad? That's another ballgame entirely, and the subject of our next review—coming soon!

Runaway. . .

Pretty page B-1

ended the story right then and there.

Jessa Zaragoza there's a lesson to be drawn from her unfortunate romantic plight—and one that her former friend needs to learn the hard way! But, when his cheating ways began to break down his defenses, Jessa finds herself falling for Apollo again! —What to do?

Melissa's earlier films were a delight because of their ridiculously romantic faith and lack of pretention. But, there was something else going for Binta. There were loads (undeniable [if surprising] chemistry, which was why I love John Lloyd-Bea, Toni-Sam, Piero-Sanchez starrers were hits with moviegoers. It was easy to root for them when the romance going got tough!

Sadly, chemistry is the missing element that's lacking in Cruz and Gonzaga's team-up. The romantic sparks they generate don't fly as high as they ought, which would have made their characters' inspirable (in more believable and "relatable" to viewers).

Heartwarming moments

To be fair, Melissa injects some heartwarming moments in her film (the lesson learned with colorful Pearl) was particularly charming)—but, without effective people "research" to deliver them, many of these scenes really don't connect to much.

Similarly, the sexy soundtrack (also Lloyd and Toni deliver ("Hindi ka na nahihiyang, kasi nandito ka na sa aking tiis," etc.) are a relief of fresh air. But, they certainly don't redeem it in the time, because the movie uses them as a recurring gag—and to a relentless tedium.

It makes you think that the couple does nothing all day but think of corny interstacks for each other. And, long before the credits roll, Jennings Bonsales soon succeeding than annoying. Besides, aren't John Lloyd and Toni a little too long in the tooth for these lines?

Moreover, there's not much calm beneath "My Amnesia Girl's" angst-coating. So, when Apollo finally tells Jessa why he got cold feet before their wedding, you won't feel that kind of cinematic inspiration and optimism that convinces you that this star-crossed couple's relationship just might work. Instead, you feel that they're just saying themselves up for another heartbreak.

How not to . . .

From page B-1

On another session, the topic was about student surnames. The dreaded host asked his guest, "What can you say about Pedo[illegible]?" Answer: "I can say so many things about it! What do you want to know?"

Sad, isn't how the exchange goes between a nervous radio newbie and his celebrity guest.

Host: Have you always been interested in business?

Guest: Yes.

Host: You mean, even when you were small, you were already interested in business?

Guest: Yes.

Host: Wow! Your parents must have been very supportive of you, weren't they?

Guest: Yes.

Host: So, this new business venture of yours, talaga bang malaki ang kita dito?

Guest: Yes.

Host: Sabi po?

Guest: (Obviously evasive) Eh!

Host: (Tries to avoid it) Eh, OK. So ano pong pagkakaiba, meron ba ang ang pong advice sa business na ito[illegible] ng ating special guest. Don't go away!

—We can't really blame interviewers for getting ideas by these basic inconvenience, can we?

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Fil-Am cinematographer discusses work with Aronofsky, Favreau

(Continued)

LOS ANGELES—We continue our interview with Filipino-American cinematographer, Matthew Libatique, whose latest collaborations with director Darren Aronofsky, "Black Swan," is winning acclaim.

For his work on the dark, psychological thriller starring Natalie Portman as a competitive ballerina, Matthew is vying against such heavyweights as Wally Pfister ("Inception"), Mihai Taimanescu ("Lovely") and Jess Pope ("Another Year") for the top honors in the 17th Cinematographers Guild Awards. The announcement will be received in February this year, before the 85th Academy Awards.

Born to Filipino parents in Astoria, New York, Matthew discusses his collaborations with Darren (whom he met when they were graduate students at the American Film Institute), Jon Favreau, Joel Schumacher and Spike Lee. Excerpts:

Adrenaline rush

What was it like to collaborate with Darren for the first time in "Pi"?

I realized from the first day at AFI that this guy was talented, and I wanted to work with him. "Pi" was an adrenaline rush because AFI was a super competitive place, and we had lots of ideas we wanted to get out.

What were the unique challenges you faced in shooting "Black Swan"?

Nothing strikes me as a "unique" challenge because all films present a list of three to four challenges. The greatest challenge was making a film that extended the clichés and expectations of a genre film. Do the stories level, if we're becoming familiar with the schedules of ballet?

What ways you used Darren's shooting list?

As always, Darren and I spend the preproduction process building a visual foundation for the film. Discussions with Therese DePrez, our previous choreographer, and Darren and how each color relates metaphorically to each character led the way to building the language you see in the movie. The heavy lifting was reheard to design the camera choreography in the choreography.

Was "Black Swan" your first time to use mostly handheld camera work in a feature film? Can you talk about the challenges of using a single, handheld camera that moved continuously, with no resetting for scenes or closeups?

"Tideland" was the first film that was 100 percent handheld. I had also done a great deal of handheld work on "Miracle at St. Anna," so handheld wasn't unfamiliar to cinema. The greatest challenge was the lighting. Obviously, when a camera is moving through space and racing 360 degrees, there isn't room in the transition for previous lighting.

A great deal of it has to be rigged high, and you have to find sweetness in the camera choreography to enhance light and darkness.

Images

The movie has a series of images filled with submissive scenes. What kind of challenges did shooting these images present?

Anytime you're working with material, it's a battle to keep the camera, tone and gear out of the frame. We struggled through this every day, but this was the film's essential visual theme, so we were prepared.

What was it like to shoot Natalie Portman?

Natalie is interesting because she's a fun actress. It's my job to capture that through cinematography. If you look at the film, you'll see that it's her first time on camera you believe she is a ballerina.

You also work regularly with Jon Favreau. Talk about that partnership.

I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Jon. Obviously, my working relationship with him is very different from my collaborations with Darren and Spike. Jon is a ringleader of creativity and storytelling. Because he's also an actor, he affords his cast a great deal of input in how their individual characters contribute to the story. I get a tremendous amount of freedom working with Jon. If anything, I do a lot of self-censorship to stay within the realm of his personality and storytelling style. He's a great improviser and has so many stories to entertain.

What are the highlights of working as a cinematographer on the two "Iron Man" movies?

The absolute highlight is witnessing the great Robert Downey Jr.

Harrison Ford recently told me about how "Cowboys & Aliens" was shot in anamorphic format. Can you talk about that?

The film was originally set to be 2D, but after looking and weeks of research, we finally chose to shoot in 35mm anamorphic. There were many reasons for the switch—some economic, some technical. In the end, we were aiming to give you the best possible experience. And, a 2D version that was shot on video is the extension of Steven Meisler was too much to work with.

What are your memories of shooting Joel Schumacher's "Veronica Guerin" and "Phone Booth"?

I'll always look back at "Tigerland" as one of my most enjoyable filmmaking experiences. It was a rare opportunity to work with a director of such great experience as a DP, where he was in complete control and with an actor (Colin Farrell) of yet undiscovered magnitude. Joel was immensely supportive and allowed me youthful creative expression.

You were the DP in Lisa Jackubiec's feature-directorial debut, "Everything is Illuminated." Can you talk about the challenges and rewards of helping fulfill the vision of a debuting director like Lisa?

Anytime you work with a first-time director, you wonder what the process actually knows and how he will react in moments of chaos. Lisa is one of the most intelligent people I know. It was an extremely personal project for him, so his focus on detail was important to the story never wavered. He was stubborn in what he wanted to create cinematically and, ultimately, he had to live the detailed nature of compromise. But, we still made a beautiful film together.

Memories

Can you share your memories of collaborating with Spike Lee on three of his films, "Miracle at St. Anna," "She Hate Me" and "Inside Man"?

Spike Lee, along with his former cinematographer, Ernest Dickerson, are the reasons I became a filmmaker. So, when Spike called and asked me to shoot "She Hate Me," it was a dream come true. Working on any I love being a part of the 40 Acres and A Mule Op(ra) production company Family. Making a film with Spike is an experience, and I've had the rare opportunity to have made three films with him! He challenges us differently each time and always demands the best from everyone.

What are you looking forward to about shooting "The Wolverine" with Darren?

Re-connecting with Darren and Hugh Jackman.

E-mail: rvsquez_SMPdaily@yahoo.com

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Robert V. Siguenza

LIBATIQUE (WITH ARONOFSKY, RIGHT): "Natalie told me she wasn't that thin guy we talked, and I wanted to work with him."

PORTMAN (INSET). Portrayed challenge in "Black Swan."

AMERICA'S BEST DANCE CREW
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LIVE IN MANILA!

America's Best Dance Crew (ABDC) Season 3 winners – Quest Crew – will be dancing their way to the hearts of Filipinos in a series of concert this December.

Armed with unmatched energy and magnetic charisma, the crew members captured the heart of Americans in ABDC back in 2009. Now it's time for Filipinos to witness their awesome moves and grooves at the Newport Plaza at Resorts World Manila on December 8, and at the Eastwood Mall Open Park on December 9, and at the Venice Piazza at McKinley Hill on December 15.

The concert will be a homecoming of sort for the group, having Filipino members. They are: Ana Paravicini, Daniel Ryan "Pyanmax" Castillejo, Dominic "D-Trix" Sandoval, and Brian Hirano.

Quest Crew is a family of close friends with a common love for dance and the arts. Accomplished dancers, each with their own specialty and style, they bring to the stage a great mix of humor, musicality, high-flying and eye-popping tricks, innovative choreography, and personality that consistently brings audiences to their feet.

The group gained international popularity after winning the dance contest and has landed them in different dance concerts and appearances in Europe, Australia, and Asia.

Joining the international dance group in the concert series are Young JV, 2XL And Awards Best New Performer of the Year; Kamikaze Dance, Urban Beats Awards Best Female R&B artist; and Philippine All Stars, 2008 and 2009 winners of World Hip Hop Dance Championships.

So if you love to dance, be sure to catch Quest Crew as they perform in Manila for the first time. VIP seats will be given to special ticket patrons but general admission is free!

This concert was made possible through the help of McDonald's, Pik-nik, The Bar, and Carlo Nosa; and media partners Channel V, the official Music Channel, Star World, Fox TV, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Businessworld, Yehey!.com, Magic 89.9, 88.3 NY Sport, Pep.ph and Black Flash, the official representation of Quest Crew. For more details, you can www.eastwoodcity.com or call 0917.630.0711.

AMBER: Keeping Original Pinoy Music Alive

Respected amongst her peers and admired by her loyal fans, multi-awarded Singer/Songwriter Amber Davis shines with originality. Amber continues to make her mark in the local OPM scene as an advocate for original music. Amber has written songs for different artists and projects, and is one of the few artists that use only original compositions in her albums. Amber won over music lovers with her Pearl Coast Album. Her debut hit "Mambo," brought her recognition at the 2007 Awit Awards for "Best Performance by a New Female Recording Artist." Her next hit "Black Hole You" was named "OPM Song Of The Year" in 2007. Most recently, her song "Take Now" feat. Ghost was named "Best Original Song" at the 2010 Urban Music Awards where she was also given an award for the duet "Spend My Life with You" with Thou and named "Best Female R&B Artist".

Amber is looking forward to releasing her new album titled "FLAM" under the P-Pop label. "FLAM" consists of 11 catchy original songs inspired by both her Filipino and American musical influences. While her eyes are firmly set on crossing over internationally, she still has her roots firmly planted in the Philippines, which she calls home. Amber stays busy performing both locally and internationally, being a VJ for an international music channel, and collaborating and writing for other artists.

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SATURDAY Special

'Star Power' down to 12 finalists

By Nestor U. Torre

CUMBIA. Her chair will sink or fly depending on the credibility of its selection and voting process.

LAST SUNDAY, Sharon Cuneta's "Star Power" made its second cut, eliminating three more hera from the competition to end up with 12 finalists (from the original 20) remaining in competition. Since the stars already reflect the show's viewer-voters' inputs (for the five hera), we can now analyze the added factor's impact on the ida's selection process, for better or for worse.

Seven finalists were identified as the lowest in terms of "votes" garnered, and we didn't have any quarrel with most of the viewers' "negative choices." However, we felt that one of the singers they eliminated had done well instead of poorly, so we were sad to see her go.

To be sure, the viewers' inputs were subject to the jurors' subsequent review, but the fact that a promising singer was dismissed still troubled.

Factors

What were the factors that prompted viewers to vote her out? Were some of the surviving hera backed up more strongly by their "block-voting" supporters? It would really be too-fraid if the ida's laudable norms to discover the genuine new singing star of 2011 would be compromised by class, organization and deep pockets, instead of the majority of viewers independently deciding that, for them, she's the best of the best in the competition, no subjective strings attached.

Sharon and her show owe it to the remaining finalists to make sure that the ultimate outcome will be affected only by perceived performing talent and stellar looks and charisma, not by block-voting "power."

For that to happen, the production needs to put in place a mechanism by which group voting is disallowed, otherwise the show could end up like many similar competitions, where the winners didn't reflect the best talents or the authentic will of the majority of viewer-voters.

Having said that, we can only hope for a better outcome from here on in, otherwise the show and Sharon would lose a measure of credibility, and nobody wants that to happen.

Another significant development last Sunday was the emergence of a few "frontrunners" in the ida's ongoing race to delight and inspire viewers. On the other hand, some finalists who shone two weeks ago lost points with viewers and jurors due to poor choice of songs rather than deter-turning talent.

So, we trust that they will wish lucks as prolong the songs that best suit their talent and showcase their personalities. With only 12 contestants left, there's no room for unwarranted insecurities and overstrutting, only for focused judgment and detailed preparation, so that the best hera will consistently hold on to their advantage in viewers' estimation.

We further note another limiting factor in the ida: Quite a number of its remaining finalists are simply too young, raw and still unformed to come into their own as real talents. They may have the impressive singing voices, but they're too immature at only 15 years old or so to project themselves as complete entertainers.

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For example, taking walks in environments surrounded by nature helps keep our minds and bodies young and short. Nature nurturers from findings confirm that the sound of water (coming from beaches, rivers and streams), birds and forests are excellent stress relievers.

Selfishness

It's unfortunate that, with the "advancement" of modern society, the earth's resources are continuously ruined by man's selfishness and greed. Many people have no appreciation for nature.

Instead, they seek fulfillment in amusement parks or high-tech gadgets, and don't care much about the preservation of our air and waters.

Our children need to experience the nurturing nature of Mother Earth, so they can realize the importance of protecting and preserving it. We should be responsible for one another—and the world we live in!

'Star'...

From page 6-E

The boy who once dominated last week were key cogs of Rain or Shine. they really didn't have much of a fighting chance to survive for long in the competition.

Essence

In the future, therefore, the oft could turn to spe reinforcements to 17 or 18, so that the chosen finalists' esthetic and performance would be better formed. Or, if worth is still of the essence, the competition should give itself much more lead time to rigorously train its bets in all aspects of performing, so by the time they're presented to the public and the jurors, they have already been thoroughly honed to have at least a fighting chance in the crowded fields.

But, all these are details. "The Star of" will still undergo fly depending on the credibility of its selection and voting process—and how it helps the nagging problem of endless fisted bloods voting.

Technology makes its presence felt in the classical arena

By Rixy M. Carballo

NEMESIO. Youngest awardee for voice this year.

PIC ATTENDED the opening of Manerya Diamond Music Competitions for Young Artists) for the second year and found the atmosphere of the 57-year program festive. Sessions Tapia Bindi, the competitions' chair for the past three years, reports that social media, the Internet, cell phones and other technological advances have enabled young artists from all over the country to interact with one another more efficiently.

In a message from his present post in Thailand, Dr. Monte Aragon, the group's executive protocol, acknowledges the foundation's role in developing young talents to help "guarantee lifelong careers for them as musicians."

Past winners

Noteworthy is the only competition that taps undiscovered talents from schools all over the country. Its past winners include Cecile Licad, Rosanna Ramos, Alfonso Balajana, Rachel Gonzales and current CCP president, Raul Sunico.

Marilen Jacob, executive director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, noted that the competition has the means to showcase Pinoy musicality around the world.

This year's theme, "Music and the Arts: The Soul of Humanity," reverberated through CCP's Little Theater as last year's winners performed special numbers. The first awardee is soprano Myrenne Victores of St. Scholastica (for Voice C category).

"I'm thankful and overwhelmed," boasted the 16-year-old, who's the youngest of the entry contestants.

Winners in the other categories (Bandurria, Choir, Dance, Piano and Marimba) will be announced until today, Nov. 27. The awarding ceremonies will be held tomorrow at the CCP Little Theater at 6 p.m.

Liz Gonzales Roque, Nemesio's program director, shared that there was a high expectation for the Bandurria and Marimba categories this year.

In recent years, she observed, the finals of the choir categories have always been filled up by provincial entries. This can only mean that the foundation's campaign to popularize the art in archipelago is succeeding.

Live audience indulges in some wholesome fun on 'Showtime'

By Rica Arevalo

WHEN FRIENDS learned that we were going to take our students on a studio tour and watch a live taping of "Showtime" at the ABS-CBN studio, many of them wanted to come along with us. Before the show started, three-year-olds Miel Bituin was the audience to do some dance steps and hand gestures.

Guest host, Wally Bayola, started the ball rolling. Sexeyloo, Jugs Jugueta and Teddy Corpuz to make up for the absence of Anne Curtis (who was in Australia) and Kris Kim Mariscal (who was on leave). The "party" began with a dance number from Ada Ama Mia.

Last Nov. 16, the winning group chosen by judges, Vice Ganda, Jhong Hilario, Karylle, Ryan Bang and DJ Papa Jack, performed a lifted dance. We asked some students to interview what they thought of the show.

Choices

Mirabo Dumaguc, Marcos Highway: "The energetic hosts obviously love what they do. I may not agree with the judges' choices, but everyone is having fun!"

Ed Serrano, Pasig: "There's an exciting and wholesome vibe about the show, and everyone is happy! Its technical aspects (lights, sounds and such) were impressive. It was a great experience!"

Lester Villaverde, Caloocan: "We can enjoy the audience during commercial breaks. We saw what the hosts were really like—and, sometimes, they looked unbelievably."

Samantha Hernandez, Origas: "It's a fun experience! The floor directors were terrific, even if the atmosphere inside the studio looked surreal."

Insulting joke

Claudia Enriquez, Novaliches: "The judges couldn't make a joke without insulting people. They looked like they were scared to it—and the audience didn't seem to mind!"

Kellen Garabiles, Cainta: "I was entertained by the show's different segments, especially the one that allowed the audience to interact with the celebrities. But, everything was choreographed, and people weren't allowed to do their thing."

Andrew Montelibano, Bulacan: "One word: Fun!"

Bryan Emanuel Ternida, Bulacan: "The show truly knows how to get the attention of the 'studying people.' It was a fabulous experience!"

POPULAR. talent show's judges, Vice Ganda, Jhong Hilario, Karylle, Ryan Bang, Karylle and DJ Papa Jack.

'Dans in Black & White'

From page H1

Rated the top cable channel among pay-TV viewers in Mega Manila during primetime over the last eight months, HBO was the country's highest ranked cable channel and the cable channel of choice among pay-TV viewers during All Saints week-end.

'The Tourist'

The romantic thriller, "The Tourist," topbills the exciting stellar combination of Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp. Depp plays an American tourist whose playful dalliance with a beautiful stranger (Jolie) leads to a web of intrigue, romance and danger. Oscar-winning director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck helms the highly anticipated production.

On GMA-7 today

"Wish Ko Lang" kicks off its three-part anniversary special. The Regine-Film Festival features "Fantastic Blue" starring Sharmaine Arnaiz, "Express Ma, Jessica Soho" interviews Pinoy icons like Dolphy, Regine Velasquez, Manny Pacquiao and Nora Aunor. "Talentadagadas" is hosted by Mike Enriquez, and, Allen K and Eugene Domingo reboot the laughfest, "Comedy Bar."

Bandkcia Dup concert

The Ateneo Symphonic Concert Choir (ASCO), led by Jerry A. Dadap, will hold a special concert at Philamlife Theater, UN ave., Manila on Nov. 30, Tomorrow Day, 7:30 p.m.

The choir's all-Filipino repertoire includes patriotic anthems, love songs, religious hymns, choral cycles based on folk songs, as well as compositions in Tagalog, Visayan, Ilocano, Kapampangan and Bicolano.

Highlight of the evening is the rousing "Pugad Lawin" portion of Dadap's musical, "Awiting Bonifacio: Ang Himbing Anak Bawia."

DEPP AND JOLIE. Team up in romantic thriller.

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'Dans in Black & White'

LATEST "Alarista" film takes the Peruvian stylebriefcase to a transcontinental journey

MONTAGE

"IN THE BACKYARD" by Dans (left).

NICKELODEON'S "cool-future" challenge.

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Nick Knock Out

From 2 to 6 p.m. today at the Molito Connected Complex, Madrigal ave. cor. Alabang Zapote rd., soft, rubble and rule the Nickelodeon way with Nick Knock Out, an exciting outdoor event for you and your family. It's packed with physical and mental activities that make the "cool-future" challenge!

Kids will be given an outlet for friendly competition as everything to Nick Knock Out's hardcore. "Hey fatal but plus hit!" They will enjoy adrenaline-pumping obstacles like the BIG Challenge Pyramid, the Slime Pendulum, Tire Twister II and other fun challenges, all to the beat of Boodoo Philippines. Log on to www.nick.com.ph/nickelodeon for more info.

'Rescued: The Chilean Mine Story'

Tomorrow at 9 p.m., Discovery Channel telecasts "Rescued: The Chilean Mine Story," which provides a detailed depiction and explanation of the scientific and technological innovations that made possible the 69-day rescue and inspiring story we recently saw live by millions on global TV.

The rescue of the 33 miners was an unprecedented effort, and the rescue team's innovations kept people around the world on the edge of their seats for two months before the successful rescue was announced.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 3:50 p.m., "The Tale of Despereaux." Tomorrow at 9:30 a.m., "E.T." Nov. 29 at 7:25 p.m., "Finding Rhiannon." Nov. 30 at 8 p.m., "America." Dec. 1 at 4:25 p.m., "Hitch." Dec. 2 at 9 p.m., "Moon." Dec. 3 at 12:15 a.m., "9 Milli."

On Cinemax at 5:40 p.m., "The Wild Bunch." Tomorrow at 4 p.m., "Hitch." Nov. 30 at 1:50 p.m., "Cursed." Nov. 30 at 8 p.m., "Time and Tide." Dec. 1 at 10 a.m., "The Rains." Dec. 2 at 6:45 p.m., "The 7th Voyage of Sinbad." Dec. 3 at 6:45 p.m., "Memphis Belle."

'The Voyage of the Dawn Treader'

The latest "Chronicles of Narnia" film, "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," is an all-new adventure for the Pevensie children, who find themselves under the water and sailing above water to see the majestic Dawn Treader in front of them. The bewitching adventure brings them on a transformational journey where the future of Narnia is at stake.

All-new 'Bandila'

The addition of Julius Babao and Iñaki Gerilla to ABS-CBN's late-night newscast "Bandila," anchored by Ces Oreña-Drilon, marks the return of a renovated news presentation newscast, empowering viewers to take part in the discussion and in finding solutions to the issues at hand.

AsiaTV awards

AsiaTV awards (this for 2010 will be held on Dec. 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the Solaire Gaming Hall. Organized and Metro-exposed Quezon City Philippine TV's most child-friendly programs and most admired personalities have been selected by thousands of jurors representing different sectors and regions of the country.

Collection of wartime newspapers and photos

Instituto Cervantes, in collaboration with the Pablo Iglesias Foundation, presents "Contemporáneo en la Guerra de España," an exhibition of 30 original newspaper articles and facsimiles, along with photographs from numerous sources that were published in the international press during the Spanish Civil War (1936-39). Spanish novelist Ignacio Carrión will lecture on the theme of the Spanish Civil War newspapers' details, and curator Carlos Gaos Basile-Grolli will also speak. Visit manila.cervantes.es.

Most-watched English movies

"Tomorrow's Revenge of the Pillars," "9/11 day: The Rise of the Cobra" and "2012" from HBO's "Action Series" lineup of seven blockbusters were rated the top movies among English movie channel viewerships in the country this year, according to Kantar Media Philippines.

IN THIS ISSUE

■ So you want to be a good TV host? /G3

SATURDAY Special

Susan Boyle spreads early *Christmas* cheer with 'The Gift'

By Rito P. Asilo

AFTER THE phenomenal success of Susan Boyle's debut recording, "I Dreamed A Dream," which was last year's biggest-selling album, what does the British songstress do for an encore?

With the release of "The Gift," which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 last week, Boyle finds the perfect venue for her pristine pipes—Christmas carols.

"The Gift" features the latter-march siren's renditions by choosing songs that bring out her voice's angelic timbre and sheen. In her a capella rendition of "O Come All Ye Faithful," for instance, she seamlessly weaves in lovely melody through the giant choirs singing in the background. Halfway through, she slowly fades out, then pops in before the carol's grand finale.

Nostalgic bent

In the rehearsed "Away in a Manger" and "O Holy Night," she evinces a nostalgic bent, garnished with thrilling soprano harmonies. Also notable are Boyle's raving, lindied renditions of "The First Noel" and the rousing Christian hymn, "Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace."

If there's anything wrong with the album it's Boyle's lack of ambition. She doesn't take a lot of risks—musically and vocally. Yes, it's hard to find fault with Boyle's impeccable singing—except that it makes some of her songs sound boring.

And, even when she sings Cascaded Down's "Don't Dream It's Over," Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" and Lou Reed's "Perfect Day," she resists their melodies as if they were jewels that would break if handled carelessly.

Interestingly, in "Do You Hear What I Hear?," Boyle shares the spotlight with tenor Isaac Slade, the 23-year old vocalist from Nevada who won "Susan's Search," the YouTube-sponsored competition that aimed to give a new singer an opportunity to sing with the British songstress.

BOYLE: Doesn't take a lot of risks

Give the comedy king a break

By Nazeeh U. Tores

DOLPHY'S TV show last Sunday wasn't easy to watch, partly because the comedy icon looked so listless and "lost last."

Despite his best and most valiant efforts, it looks like the years are weighing down on him. So, the people close to him and those who profess to love him shouldn't lose on him quite so much. They shouldn't expect him to be the vigorous provider he used to be years ago—not just for his enormous family but for his entire show—not to mention all of the hangers-on who've stuck to him through the years. —Have a heart, people.

Exchange of jokes

Fact is, Dolphy's participation in the show has become extremely minimal, with his performance mostly limited to an initial exchange of jokes with other comedians on the program, before leading into the "modern fairy tale with a moral lesson" that serves as the weekly telecast's main program material.

Last Sunday, the main entire story was about a rich—and nasty—woman (Jackielou Blanco) who wanted to remain the most beautiful woman in town, despite her advanced age. To do this, she made a pact with some dark forces, and she has been so "ugly" the beautiful and her younger women arrived.

The story was really quite standard, but the talented Jackielou was able to transform her character into a thoroughly believable and fascinating portrait of vanity, selfishness and desperation gone berserk.

Most other actresses would have come up with the usual "vicious villain" clichés which, percent. But, Jackielou went beyond facile and lowbrow entertainment and dug deeper into her character's surrender and customer soul, and the added thespic bonus was a treat to watch.

In other aspects, however, the episode stumbled. For one thing, the young actress cast as Jackielou's "more beautiful" replacement(s) wasn't better looking than her.

The show's star of subplot, about some senior comedians in discreetly vying for a "Miss Intrigue" beauty title, also ended up as a largely dumb and gabby distraction, except for the unruly-humor interaction carried to by Epi Quizon.

Screen bia

Epi is really no dumb Dolphy's comedic sidekick/foil, as we wish that the two of them would come in a more visible movie together. In addition, Epi could play his father in Dolphy's screen biography, which should be produced soon.

It would also be great if the Film Academy of the Philippines or the Actors' Guild would execute a retrospective of Dolphy's best screen and television.

The films selected for that retrospective and competing showcase should include "Sub and Jill," "Comics de Garapata," "Ang Tanay Kong Nanay," "Ulan Lhan A Time," "Pacifica Falayfay," "Bobot and Alaska," "Unang Sumo da," "Shining Shinki," "Tulapang Bakasa," "Sa Isang Sulok Sila Pero," "Pic Pic Sinaduram," "Enteng Kaot," "Black Magic"—etc.

DOLPHY: High time for a retrospective.

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FANS' DAY

More educational TV shows for children needed

By Andy Saz

OUR PREVIOUS item on televisual style surrounding has merited a rejoinder from Jan Barnes, a quality assurance analyst in Canada. "Living away from the Philippines has made me realize how badly we have it news-reading and news reporting. Tabloid-style reporting has no place in a country where human rights and common courtesy are scheduled.

"First-world countries don't show graphic, gory and R-rated scenes. They don't parade naked corpses on TV. They don't show reporters interviewing suspects as if they were the newsgrabbing cops. The poor suspect probably has no idea about his right to remain silent. Here, benevolence and assurance, like, constantly assure and project a professional countenance. I have yet to see a reporter who overacts or yells. I cringe at the sight of these news-camera guys, ng like movie stars while being introduced at the start of the news-cast.

Other observations this week:

Higher ratings

Marie Trinidad Ar, law graduate: "When I was still a kid, my siblings and I used to watch educational children's programs on ABS-CBN like Knowledoodle, 'Math, Math' and 'Why,' which supplemented what we were learning in school. They made learning fun and exciting. Knowledoodle, for instance, 'tested' its young viewers to see how, where and when learning processes were presented and explained. Unfortunately, these children's programs have been replaced by cartoons. ABS-CBN and GMA shouldn't settle for 'potty' shows just to generate higher ratings and revenues. Money should be for their top-priority public service should be!

"I'm an RED-CON fan because of its impressive roster of television personalities as news and information. However, I must admit that DZRH has an ace in Mike Enriquez, whose brand of public service goes beyond the newsroom via his public affairs TV program, 'Sentro.' Sunday as well as his radio drama, 'Silip sa Bukas'! I like his unique style of reporting, which provides patient and innovative solutions to conventional problems. That is when public service is all about."

Soap starlets

Igel Legaspi, visual artist: "Because TV networks are always aiming for a bigger audience share, their television fares become more sex-oriented, believing that it has evolved viewers' tastes. Sexy, hot and beauty outweigh the more important aspects, like acting and the show's originality. Viewers are conditioned to watch sexy starlets displaying shallow acting in flash-based headlines trying to spook the movie box-garage in time.

CEBU'S DANCING DIMPLETTES. Global attraction.

"TV broadcasting has become more of a business venture. Naturally, economic profits in place those who achieve the most numbers of viewers are, instead of maintaining objectivity and focusing on editorial non-political issues, the networks sometimes feature controversial, ridiculous and fantastic news to lure viewers.

"The recent Ampatuan and Training Prisoners' is cool, at the same time, featuring them on primetime news exposes to the world that our jails have no moral lessons. Nowadays, the network first documents the 'wickedest' confessions, crimes and blunders of personalities as well as the most sensational news gets not only viewers' attention, but sponsors' patronage, as well."

What do you want to say to our entertainment providers and news? Make it shorter (yes we can) and without tips or hidden PR strings attached, please. We need to show that Filipino TV-film viewers aren't passive and uncaring, but are ever discriminating and proactive. E-mail to: ask.bata@gmail.com.

The 25 Days of 'Paskong Pilipino' From page 9

wont to go to a big bakeshop and see how they decorate all those yummy and festive cakes that people order for the Philippine market?

"Next Dec., you're really in a cafe!"

"Yeey me."

"Ah! On Dec. 11, Lolo Nilo and Lola Alita are inviting us to their home in San Pablo to watch a performance of the 'Pasyon-play,' the Passion people's presentation of the Christ's life leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ in a stable. I like these performances, because it's so simple and heartfelt!

"And the following day, we can have lunch on one of those bamboo rafts on the lake, or visit Nilo Escudero, and then buy lots of flowering plants on the way back to Manaila, to make our yard even more colorful!"

"What about also visiting Nuts as a caroling and seeing how the craftsmen there make imaginative Christmas decorations? We can do that on Dec. 12."

"Right—and, on Dec. 13, we have to be back in Manila, because on that day, our class is having its "stalkings-gift" party. (*mumbles a mantra*)—it's so much fun! What about on Dec. 14, what can we do?"

"I know, I know—we can collect all the old newspapers, clothes and toys in the house and donate them to our probably Christmas-less kids next door!"

"Why, Pen, I didn't know you could be so generous!"

"Well, that's the spirit of a Pinoy Christmas celebration, right?"

"Absolutely, 100-percent correct! And, on Dec. 15?"

Concert

"On Dec. 15, my class is performing in a concert of Christmas carols at the school auditorium."

"Are you singing 'On the 12 Days of Christmas'?"

"No, it's an evening of Pinoy carols, and our class is singing 'Kumukutitap'!"

"Wow, even better! And, on Dec. 16?"

"Called, how could you forget? Dec. 16 is the start of the nine-day Misa de Gallo or dawn masses (or in Bisli locals-in-right into the Christmas break). Christmas! We're still having Misas—including our parents, 82-y!"

"Oh, yes, that's when our Filipino Christmas celebrations really come into their own! We wake up at 4 a.m.—including you, sleepyhead!—we bundle up and walk to the parish church with our neighbors—the church is brightly lit and beautifully decorated—the choir sings (and they weren't the best—the parish's newest helper in recall the birth of Baby Jesus in a cold stable) (*we mumbled*)—we feel so close to everybody around us—it's a wonderful experience!

"And, on Dec. 17 and the days after that, after breaking dawn masses, we can have all sorts of jam-barbecue, bibingka and all those hot and steaming delicacies that they serve in the stalls outside the church! Don't you love it?"

"Oh, Pen, with you, it's always 'stomach first!'"

"Well, I'm a growing boy!"

"Yes, but you're growing sideways!" Tony laughed again.

The 25 Days of 'Paskong Pilipino'

Pretzeque El

"We're at the homestretch now, Dec. 18?"

"Oh, that would be my deadline for buying all the gifts I still haven't gotten to give my friends this Christmas...last minute shopping! So, I'll go bargain-hunting in Divisoria and the many tiangges and Greenmall sales all over town!"

"On Dec. 19?"

Christmas Eve

"Mommy says that day is reserved for general housecleaning, the repair of our house and other things around the house...so that, when Christmas Eve comes around, our house will be spic-and-span!"

"Oh...on Dec. 20, I'll be joining my Boy Scout troop to do some tree planting in Bonsalan."

"That's great....just make sure that, after your group plants those seedlings, somebody will be assigned to water them, OK?"

"Sir, the barangay people usually have volunteered to do that."

"Good, that's really thinking 'green'! Now, what do we do on Dec. 21? —Oh, I know. We assume we're walking in to a village in the province where every day is Christmas!

"There really is such a place? Wow!"

"Only in the Philippines! —Well, that's the Pinoy Christmas for you."

"For...(?) Oh, we're going to close to Christmas Eve!"

"Well, on Dec. 22, Fr. Frank, Daddy's cousin, is inviting the whole family to his place in Tagaytay, where they're having a festival and exhibit of 'baby' images of the Santo Niño lying in a manger, plus a display of many species of poinsettias in different colors, a manggy for holiday cakes and sweets—and so much more!"

—"And, if we come home early enough, we can go caroling with our friends around the neighborhood to make some money to spend for our usual beach picnic right after the holidays!"

"Dec. 23?"

Fantastic show

"That's when we go to Sunday's for its big Christmas Lantern vs. Parol Festival! Oh, those giant capiz-shell with their fantastic show of a million lights—shouldn't be missed!"

"And, on Dec. 24?"

"That's already Christmas Eve, Pau....when it all finally happens—we host Mass at midnight, Kuya as the priest is targeting 40 men, each home with our friends and neighbors, have a great, big, yummy Noche Buena at Media Noche with all the trimmings, open our gifts, talk and laugh, have somewhere in media natal time, and then go to bed for a long, happy, contented sleep!"

"Oh, yes, I could sleep all day!"

"But, you have to wake up at mid-morning, on Dec. 25! Plus, because that's when we dress up in our new clothes and shoes and visit the homes of our ninongs and ninangs for our annual pamaskuhan!

"—Aaaaaaw!, Pau exclaimed.

"There's nothing better than Christmas in the Philippines!"

"I agree," Celine beamed, hugging her brother tightly.

"—Even better than 'The 12 Days of Christmas' with rolexes, purses, perfumes and leaping toads and everything?"

"Shuh, much better!"

YULETIDE STORY FOR YOUNG READERS

The 25 Days of 'Paskong Pilipino'

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN CELINE heard the Yuletide carol, "The 12 Days of Christmas," for the first time, she instantly fell in love with it. She would sing it all the time, driving her kid brother, Pao, crazy.

"Stop it, stop it," he would shout, covering his ears and running away from her. "Why do you like that song so much?"

"Because it's about the Christmas season, which we're celebrating now," Celine gushed. "It makes me happy and excited—I can't wait for Christmas Eve to come, so we can open our presents!"

"But, it doesn't make sense at all," Pao griped. "A partridge in a pear tree, French hens, turtle doves, calling birds, lords a-leaping...what do those words even mean?"

"That's because the song was written in Europe," Celine patiently explained. "They have those things there, so that's what they sing about."

"But this is the Philippines, not the States," the grumbled. "Our Christmas is not like that at all! If you want to sing about the Christmas season, sing about the things we know and experience!"

Younger brother

Celine looked at her younger brother and fell silent. Sometimes, he could be really infuriating! But, since in a while, he made sense—a lot of sense.

On npo naman, she thought to herself. This is Manila, in the Philippines, and when we celebrate each December it's a 10-spine Christmas...Pasko ng Pinoy. We don't have partridges, turtle doves, swans, virgin hells, none—!

What we have instead are —oh...so many other wonderful things, wonderful in their own, different ways! Maybe that's what we should all sing about!

"That's right!" Her excitement, as though he could read her mind—sometimes, he could be really scary. "And, may I point out another thing, please?: Christmas or Holy Days isn't celebrated only when December comes.

"—it, let her! We love Christmas so much that we start hearing carols played on the radio exactly when the 'ber' months come—starting Sept. 1!

"So, so, that's way too soon," Celine vigorously objected. "I get your point about our celebrating Christmas much longer than they do in the States or Europe, but three whole months is carrying things too far!"

"So, what do you suggest?"

"Well, maybe, from the original carol's 12 days of Christmas, we can increase it to—the 25 days of a Filipino Christmas!"

"Hmmmm," murmured Pao, studying it over. "Type on tips, 25 days of a Pasko ng Pilipino is it?"

Celine laughed, so happy that they finally agreed on something. "So, do we write the new lyrics now?"

"OK—but, more important than that, we should actually do the 25 things we decide on that best represent a Pinoy Christmas."

"I agree, I agree. OK—you start."

True love

"Ahhh, on the first day of our Pinoy Christmas, our true love gave to me—

"—Celine, you have a line. Now I'll roll! Hmmmp!"

"Sis, dearest, that's just the lyrics to the original song!"

"Proper about the original, we're doing something entirely new here. It's our Christmas we're talking about, right?"

"Uh, OK. Thanks for reminding me."

"So, what will you do on the first day of our Pasko ng Pinoy?

"Uh....decorate our Christmas tree!"

"Good! On the second day?"

"I'll hang a parol outside our window!"

"Hey, that's right! This is fun! And...on the third day?"

"I'll join the Belen making contest in our neighborhood!"

"Wonderful! And, on the fourth day?

"I'll rehearse for our Christmas program(s) in school—I'm playing the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary. —You, what character are you playing?"

"Teacher cue me as the goat in the stable." They laughed together.

"OK, back to work. What will you do on the fifth day?

"Hmm—I'll take out our old Christmas decorations and make the whole house look really cheerful and festive!"

"Great—and, on the sixth day?"

"Hey, hey, why am I the only one doing all the thinking and planning? You, then, what would you do?

"I'll go to my nieces and ask him for my Christmas gift!"

"Pao, the ninth day of Christmas is way too early for that—you have to wait until Dec. 25!"

"Bee, that's much too long for me to wait. I'll ask misnoy for my gift in advance."

"No, Pao, you just have to wait."

"OK, it's my birthday on Dec. 8 so I'll celebrate it—at The Tita's orphanage, so not just I, but all the little children there will be happy!"

Spirit of Christmas

"Hey, that's more like it, you're really getting into the real spirit of Christmas, Pao—I'm proud of you. ...So, what about on Dec. 17?"

"I'll...I'll do the opposite and visit the old folks and sing at Golden Years and treat them to cake, ice cream and lollipops!"

"Why lollipops?"

"Because they're fun and it's fun, get it?"

"Oh, Pao, your sense of humor is so weird...are you an alien from outer space, or something?"

"Well, sometimes, I'm not so sure."

"Lollipops and lollipops! Weird!" And the two siblings had a good laugh together.

"But, don't think your share of our list of Pinoy Christmas activities is complete—far from it," Celine said, after pausing to take a deep breath. "What about Dec. 8?"

"That's easy." Pao grinned. "That's the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and our whole family student it a point to join the big procession around Intramuros!"

"Bee!, on Dec. 9, The Andy and Dia Winky will pick us up, as they do every year, and we'll all go with our cousins on a bus of all of the wonderful Christmas lights at the Ayala Commercial Center, Greenhills and Cubao!"

Collections

"Bee!, and on Dec. 10, I want to see all of the Christmas tree collections so fantastically decorated and displayed in the lobbies of auto big hotels!"

"Bee!, and, and on Dec. 11, I

THE 12 DAYS O...

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LIFESTYLE

The Rustan's Children's Christmas Registry

Spending the best of the holidays with your kids

Christmas wouldn't be the same without celebrating it with kids, that is why the Rustan's Christmas Registry was created. It is a gift registry open to children of all ages. It was formally launched last November 5, 2010, and will run until January 7, 2010 and the registry is available in these Rustan's department stores:

- Rustan's Makati, 3rd floor
- Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza, 3rd floor
- Rustan's Alabang Town Center, 1st floor
- Rustan's Gateway, 3rd floor
- Rustan's Cebu

The Rustan's Christmas Registry is a venue where kids can visit Santa and tell him the gifts they would like to receive. They are then assisted by Santa's Little Helpers around the store to choose gifts and place them in the registry. Items can be chosen from anywhere in the store. These selections are then logged and initially in our system and emailed to people they would like to send their "Wish lists" to. These can be their grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles, friends, and relatives. Their selections/wishes are also printed and stored in their stockings with the child's name, which we keep on the Christmas trees around the Children's area.

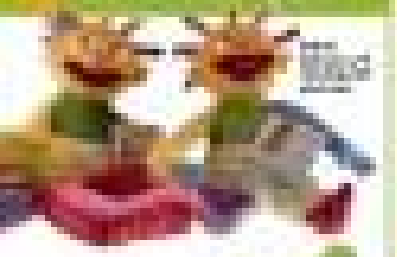
Those who would like to buy the gifts for the children that registered are welcome to come into the stores, approach Santa's little helpers to request for the list of the child they are buying for. Santa's little helpers can then show them the list of selected items that have not yet been purchased, and can help them with their selection, purchase, and gift wrapping (free gift wrapping for items above P300).

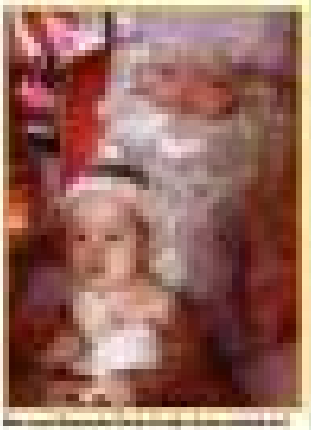
What do you
for Christm

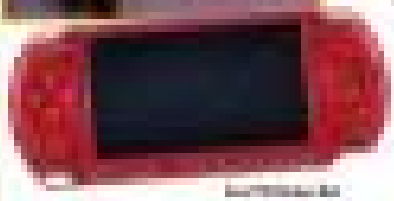
Santa's for everything for yo
lovely little ones, and here are
fun gift suggestions

u want
as?

Mandy and Rena Jan







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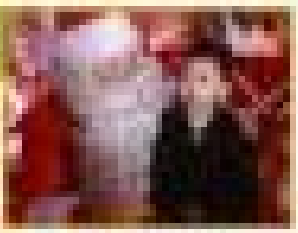

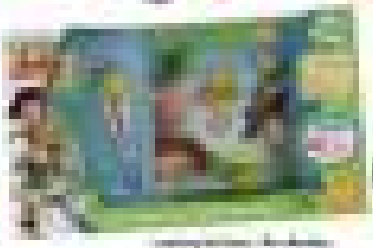

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Has your child been good this year? Share your child's wonderful good deed on our Facebook page and tell us what toy they would like to receive. We even picked our TOP RUSTAN'S FACEBOOK toy picks.

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Philips Digital photo frame

Leapfrog "My Own Leapfrog"

Lego Thomas and Friends depts

Rustanania red dress with bolero

Fisher-Price Imaginext "3 fire steps fire" plush toys

Dora The Explorer Brass band set

Rustanania Black Mary Jane with Black Flower

Baby Club pink sleeveless dress